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NO. 7763 WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 1990/JAMADIUL THANI 14, 1410 AH 20 PAGES 150 FILLS

Kuwait, Egyptian views identical: Premier

CAIRO, Jan 9, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti and Egyptian sides concluded their first round of official talks here today following which HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah said: "We have come out from this fraternal meeting with identical points of view."

Sheikh Saad, who led the Kuwaiti side beside Egyptian Premier Ataf Sedki, added the talks have comprehensively touched on important issues topped by the situation in the Gulf region and regional and international issues.

He said both sides also exchanged views on measures to be considered in a bid to find a united Arab stance towards the recent international changes, particularly Eastern Europe and unified Western Europe.

On the recent initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to put an end to the state of no-peace-no-war between Iraq and Iran, Sheikh Saad expressed hope that the Iranian leadership would respond to the call, which is a clear invitation to reinstate peace among countries of the region.

Sheikh Saad and Sedki began with a 60-minute long meeting before members of both countries' delegations joined them for broader talks.

Sedki, for his part, said Kuwait and Egypt have good relations and stressed that points of view were identical over all issues discussed.

He added that both sides have agreed on supporting relations in the future and that Sheikh Saad as usual has stressed personal care of all steps that would support bilateral relations in the next stage.

The Egyptian Premier also noted that the talks have dealt with a Kuwaiti contribution in a joint venture of reclaiming 400,000 acres in Sinai. The total cost of the joint venture will be Egyptian pounds one billion of which the foreign component totalling \$200 million will be provided by Kuwait. (One US dollar is nearly 2.1 Egyptian pounds).

Egyptian Minister of Economy Yusri Mustafa said in a statement following the meeting that an agreement was reached here today to establish a number of joint ventures, including the opening of trade centres in the two capitals.

He said the volume of trade exchange between Kuwait and Egypt steadily increases every year, and disclosed that it reached 94 million Egyptian pounds in 1988 compared to 38 million in 1986.

(Continued on Page 9)

Montazeri briefly arrested: opposition

BAGHDAD, Jan 9, (Agencies): An Iranian opposition group said today Revolutionary Guards have raided the house of Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri, once the designated heir to late leader Ayatollah Khomeini, and briefly arrested him.

The Baghdad-based Mujahideen Khalq group quoted reports from Qom as saying Montazeri's arrest on Saturday caused tension in the holy city and the guards were forced to release him a few hours later.

It said the incident followed anti-Montazeri demonstrations staged after Qom's Friday prayer meeting on the orders of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Tehran newspapers reported several demonstrations against Montazeri in the Fayzieh theological school and outside his home in Qom, 120 km (75 miles) south of the capital.

The Mujahideen said yesterday that the anti-Montazeri protests were triggered by his recent speeches.

Khomeini sacked Montazeri as his designated successor in March. He accused Montazeri, 66, who had criticised the government's treatment of political prisoners, of being influenced by dissidents and told him to stay out of politics.

Radical Iranian parliamentarians today bowed down to a warning from spiritual leader Khamenei to back the government, Tehran radio said.

The lawmakers' move, on the surface at least, appeared to dampen a barrage of criticism of Rafsanjani's policies over the last few weeks that brought into the open a power struggle between himself and former Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi.

Tehran radio, quoted Parliament Speaker Mahdi Karrubi, a key radical, as saying: "Today, when an excellent force is in charge of the executive, all of us have a revolutionary and religious duty to help him solve the difficulties to the best of his ability."

Karrubi, addressing the 270-member Majlis, or Parliament, stressed: "We are always ready to co-operate with the government, and I assure you that any criticism... will be entirely... to the benefit of the Islamic order."

Khamenei, who is allied to Rafsanjani, yesterday issued a sternly worded statement warning after weeks of parliamentary sniping at Rafsanjani's six-month-old government that he will not tolerate any effort by "any individual, faction or group" to undermine the Islamic republic.

Rafsanjani told a visiting Qatari minister today that Iran wanted to avoid conflicts and co-operate with its Muslim neighbours.

Legal action taken against Jahra meet

Interior Ministry cautions diwanis again

KUWAIT, Jan 9, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti Interior Ministry today once more cautioned citizens assembling in diwanis to discuss certain issues, which contradicts the positive traditional concept of these diwanis.

The source added that this procedure reasserts a ministry statement issued last Dec 28 on assembling in diwanis to discuss certain issues, which contradicts the positive traditional concept of these diwanis.

He indicated that a citizen had called for a public assembly in his private diwaniya at Jahra area of Kuwait yesterday, despite being cautioned against such a step, in violation of Law 5 for 1979 regarding public gatherings.

"To maintain law and order and in implementation of a decision by the Council of Ministers in this respect, the (Interior) Ministry took legal measures to prevent and disperse this assembly according to Article 11 of the said law," he noted.

The Interior Ministry called on all citizens to co-operate with it and comply with state laws in this regard.

The ministry stressed it will continue to take necessary legal measures against any illegal gathering in order to preserve law and order.

On Dec 28 the Interior Ministry called upon citizens to preserve the true spirit of diwanis.

The ministry called upon owners of the diwanis to comply with the laws and not to allow their diwanis to be used against purpose established by law and traditions.

The ministry stressed the importance of diwanis in Kuwait's social life as being a place for gathering of people to discuss their own affairs.

CBI man killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, Jan 9, (Agencies): The killing of a Central Bureau of Intelligence policeman today brought to 14 the official death toll in 24 hours of riots against India's rule in Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state.

An undisclosed number of gunmen blocked the CBI officer's path in the Beeru town market and unleashed a volley of bullets, killing him instantly, the officials said.

The assailants escaped as people in the market fled in panic, they said.

They blamed the attack on militants pursuing an increasingly violent campaign to end Indian control over the state's northern region of Kashmir, which is overwhelmingly Muslim.

Buildings in the town were set ablaze, they said.

Four major towns in the northern state, including Srinagar, were under curfew after 13 people died in clashes yesterday between police and youths throwing petrol bombs and stones.

In Srinagar, a summer haven for tourists in the Himalayan valley, security forces patrolled the bazaar. Army patrols moved in to reinforce police and paramilitary forces. Militant groups are demanding independence for Kashmir or its secession to neighbouring Pakistan.

Violence surged after last Friday's anniversary of a 1949 United Nations' resolution urging a referendum on Kashmir's future.

In Bandipur, Muslims looted Hindu-owned shops, prompting police to open fire, wounding more than 20 demonstrators, officials said. Crowds in Tral set ablaze a public works department building and in Bijbehara and Handwara, police staged baton charges and fired tear gas to disperse rock-throwing protesters, officials said.

The developments came a day after widespread rioting in Srinagar and the towns of Anantnag, Sopore and Baramulla during which security forces reportedly shot dead at least 13 people. Scores of officers and protesters were injured in street clashes.

Troops were called out today in Srinagar to assist local and paramilitary police patrols, some of which broadcast over loud speakers warnings for residents to abide by the curfew and remain indoors.

The army was also helping to enforce curfews in the three other towns of the Kashmir valley.

Witnesses, reached by telephone, said two people were killed and several injured when police opened fire in Srinagar to disperse several hundred demonstrators raising anti-government slogans.

Scores of people have been killed in the state in recent weeks as police cracked down on Muslims seeking independence for Kashmir or union with neighbouring Pakistan.



Dismantling border

Violence has reignited along the Soviet-Iranian border with protesters from Soviet Azerbaijan destroying more border posts, the Soviet government daily tvestia reported.

The violence was the latest since protests broke out Dec 31. Thousands of Azerbaijanis demanding open borders and unification with their ethnic brethren in Iran have destroyed guard observation towers, electronic alarms and communications lines along the border. Picture shows protesters setting fire to and dismantling border installations near the town of Ordubad. (Reuters wirephoto)



'O God, show us on TV'

Pakistani opposition deputies raise their hands in prayer as they squat outside the television headquarters in Islamabad to protest alleged bias in government media. Sitting second from left, grey-haired and bearded, is National Assembly's opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi. (Reuters wirephoto).

See story on Page 2

Noriega may be moved

Hearing set

MIAMI, Jan 9, (Agencies): A federal judge scheduled a court hearing today to consider a surprise request by prosecutors that deposed Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega be compelled to have a bail hearing, a court spokeswoman said.

Noriega, who has been held in a cell in the basement of Miami's federal courthouse since he was brought here from Panama last Thursday, has the right to appear at the hearing but it was not known whether he would be present in the courtroom.

A Miami lawyer familiar with the case said the government's request was related to plans to move Noriega to a new location.

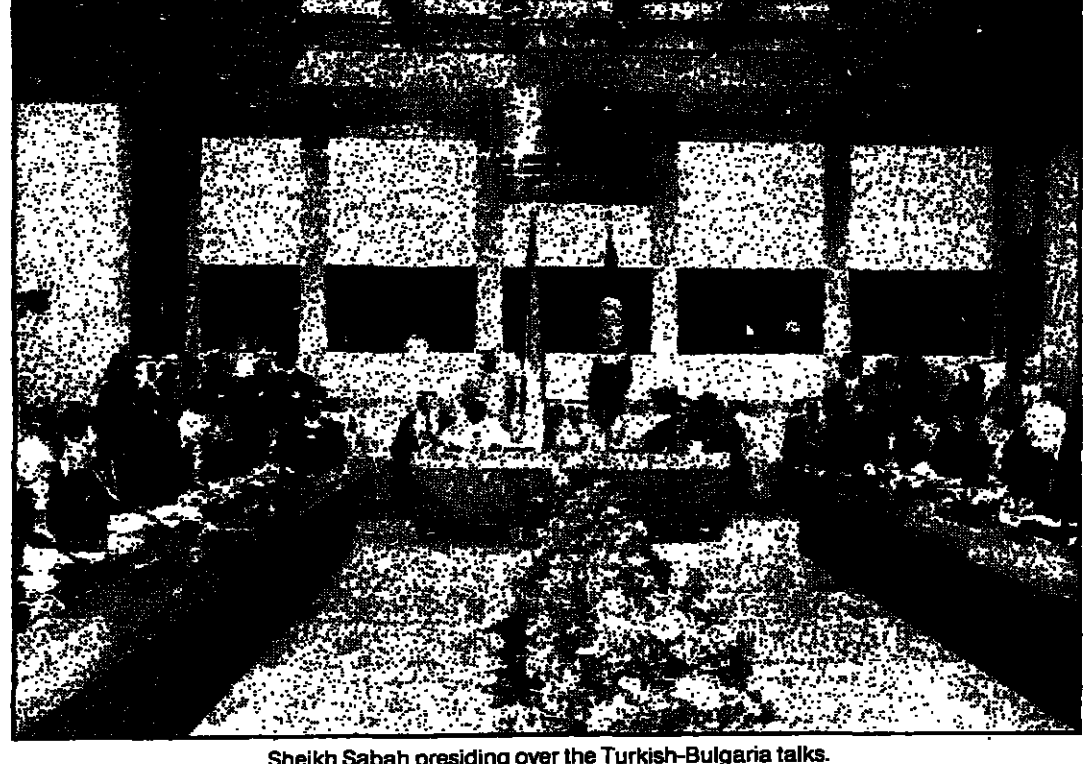
A US official said yesterday that federal authorities intend to move Noriega, who faces drug trafficking charges, to a more secure jail cell "in the near future," possibly to a maximum-security prison outside Florida.

But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the exact timing and other details of the transfer had not yet been worked out.

(See Page 4)

Turkey, Bulgaria talks prove fruitful

Ethnic problem resolved



Sheikh Sabah presiding over the Turkish-Bulgaria talks.

TURKEY and Bulgaria have expressed desire to improve their relations on "a sound and mutually beneficial basis" following two rounds of talks here yesterday on their dispute over the rights of Turkish minority in Bulgaria.

A joint press communique issued by foreign ministers of the two countries said they agreed to hold a further meeting to make better assessment of bilateral relations during the opening session of the Open Skies conference to be held in Ottawa 12-15 of next February.

The communique said the minister of foreign affairs of the People's Republic of Bulgaria Boiko Dimitrov and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey A. Mesut Yilmaz met in Kuwait on Tuesday, in the context of the good offices of H.H. Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Jaber Al Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait and Chairman of the 5th Islamic summit, and in accordance with the reached agreement.

Both countries have agreed to meet in Ankara next month on the level of deputy foreign ministers to discuss ways to bridge gaps between the two countries, sources of the Turkish and Bulgarian delegations said.

The decision was reached during a meeting behind closed doors.

As for the situation of the Turkish Muslim minority living in Bulgaria, the sources said that Ankara considers the problem as resolved, following Sofia's decision on granting Bulgarian Muslims freedom to perform their religious rites and choose their own names.

"In a frank and constructive spirit," the announcement said, "the two ministers made a detailed and comprehensive review of the current state of Bulgarian-Turkish relations and the future prospects."

"They have expressed their respective government's political will to improve their relations on a sound and mutually beneficial basis," the communique said.

(Continued on Page 9)

Aquino warns of coup

Tighter security for political prisoners

MANILA, Jan 9, (Agencies): Philippine President Corason Aquino warned today that a new coup attempt could overthrow her and plunge the country into "nightmarish bloodbaths" unless the people rallied to her defence.

The military announced it had ordered tighter security at a stockade for political prisoners in Manila after uncovering a plan by rebel soldiers to rescue leaders of last month's failed army rebellion.

Aquino, in a speech to police officers, said mutineers who wanted to overthrow her would bring a new reign of terror and tyranny to the Philippines.

The nation would continue to live under a shadow of fear so long as members of the military believed they could change the government by force, she said.

"For as long as the gun will be used to cow the unarmed into silent obedience, and as long as the citizenry will allow itself to be bedegged into submission, there will always be a possibility that the force and the will of an armed few may prevail over the many," Aquino warned.

She urged Filipinos "to unite and help us break once and for all this sinister threat to our freedom and prosperity."

"For if our people will allow armed might to supplant this constitutional government," she said, "surely there will be no end to nightmarish bloodbaths such as those happening elsewhere in the world."

Australian Aborigine survives head attack by crocodile

SYDNEY, Jan 9, (Reuters): An Australian Aborigine said yesterday that he had survived a crocodile attack by poking the reptile in the eyes as it dragged him underwater.

Johnny Banjo, 33, was swimming on Sunday evening in the Daly river, 200 km (125 miles) south of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory, when a three metre (nine foot) saltwater crocodile bit him around the back of the head.

"I had gone down for a bit of a swim and a crocodile came from behind and bit me on the back of the head," he said from his bed at Royal Darwin Hospital.

Banjo said "the old people" (elderly Aborigines) had told him that if he were ever attacked by a crocodile he should poke it in the eyes.

"I felt around its head and found its eyes," he said. "I then poked its eyes and it opened its mouth."

Banjo said the crocodile disappeared and he swam to the riverbank with blood streaming from deep cuts in the head.

He said he walked to a medical clinic at the nearby aboriginal mission for treatment and was flown to the hospital in Darwin.

Northern Territory police confirmed Banjo's story and said conservation commission officials will try to trap the crocodile.



Banjo pictured in Royal Darwin hospital after surviving a crocodile attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate northwesterly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 10.00 am

Low water: 6.00 am, 5.00 pm

Sunrise: 6.44 am

Sunset: 5.07 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 18°C 61°F

Ahmed: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 7°C 45°F

Ahmed: 10°C 50°F

Falaka: 10°C 50°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 16°C 61°F

Ahmed: 14°C 57°F

Falaka: 15°C 59°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 31 per cent

Ahmed: 60 per cent

Falaka: 50 per cent

ARAB TIMES

Grand Bingo

KD 250 must be won

Coupons for Game No. 75 will appear from Jan 11 to Jan 17. Last date for sending entries is Jan 19 and numbers will be drawn from Jan 21.

PRIZES.

Four Corners	KD 25
Top Line	KD 25
First Full House	KD 100
Second Full House	KD 60
Third Full House	KD 40

(See Page 2)

Crackdown on Tamil radicals

Tigers held their own

COLOMBO, Jan 9, (Agencies): Security forces began a crackdown on Tamil militants as the leading opposition figure accused the government today of arming one of the groups in the conflict.

Sirimavo Bandaranaike, a former prime minister, told a rally that the government was providing arms to the Tamil Tigers, one of the major players in the struggle for control of the Tamil-dominated northeast.

"I warn the government, the Tigers will one day turn their guns against the Sinhalese," Mrs. Bandaranaike said, referring to the ethnic majority which controls Sri Lanka's army and government.

A military official, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, said security forces launched a major crackdown yesterday on armed Tamils in the region, including the Tigers.

He said no exceptions would be made and the crackdown would be "relentlessly pursued."

He reported the arrest of a Tamil man carrying an automatic rifle and grenades and the discovery of an arms cache as the first successes of the operation.

The official claimed the arrested man, Rajendrakumar, was a local leader of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, the chief foe of the Tigers. He is the first militant known to have been arrested for carrying a weapon in the troubled northeast, where most men are armed.

Rajendrakumar was arrested in the east coast district of Ampara. The arms cache was discovered in the northern town of Vavuniya.

The crackdown follows the partial withdrawal of Indian peacekeeping troops from the areas, where they have been stationed since July 1987 in an attempt to disarm the Tigers.

The Tigers have been at the forefront of the seven-year-old movement for an independent Tamil nation and did not abide by the 1987 peace accord which offered them limited autonomy. Instead, they turned their guns

on the Indians, who were meant to supervise the accord, and on Tamil groups which accepted the peace overtures.

The internecine fighting among the Tamils escalated last fall after India began withdrawing its soldiers from the region, where they had sole responsibility for law and order. The withdrawal followed peace talks last summer between the Colombo government and the Tigers.

The estimated 25,000 Indian soldiers still in Sri Lanka are scheduled to be withdrawn by March 31, the two countries announced last week.

High motivation and high technology enabled Tigers to hold its own for two years against a vastly larger Indian force, a rebel leader said today.

"Our fighters believed in themselves their capacity to take on the mighty Indian troops. The use of new military technology also helped," Gopalasamy Mahendrarajah, deputy leader of the Tigers, told a group of Indian journalists.

Mahendrarajah, whose nom de guerre is Mahathaya, briefly came out of hiding to give his first interview in two years at a farming village in Vavuniya, 240 km (150 miles) north of Colombo.

The 34-year-old leader, dressed in military fatigues, said the Tigers' aim remained to send "an army of occupation" out of the country.

The Tigers, with only 2,500 fighters, held its own against the Indian Army, military sources said.

They said the rebels fought the Indians with sophisticated weaponry including rocket launchers, grenade throwers and modern small arms.

Mahathaya said the group lost 670 fighters in the fighting with Indian troops. New Delhi says over 1,000 Indian soldiers have died in Sri Lankan clashes.

The Sri Lankan government today banned strikes, demonstrations and other political activities in workplaces and universities amid fears that rebels were planning a new offensive.

Manila troops around US base on alert

SAN FERNANDO, Philippines, Jan 9, (AP): Government troops around a US air base were placed on alert today following renewed threats by communist rebels against American servicemen, local officials and others, the military said.

Lt. Col. Efraim Fernandez, Philippine constabulary commander in Pampanga province, said Communist New People's Army guerrillas operating around the US-run Clark Air Base have stepped up their area offensive to make up for losses suffered last year.

Clark is an Angeles City, a few kilometres (miles) north of San Fernando and about 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Manila.

Fernandez said troops in the province have been alerted and are ready to launch counter-offensives against possible rebel attacks.

"We will also meet the situation with an offensive. We will establish a momentum," Fernandez said. "We are ready for any contingency."

Fernandez added that last Friday's assassination of Javier Hizon, mayor of nearby Mexico town, was part of the rebel campaign.

Fernandez said more than half of the rebels operating in the province had been killed or captured in the past two years, prompting the rebels to try a new strategy of hitting civilian targets.

But, he said, "killing civilians is a sign of weakness." Yesterday, a spokesman for guerrillas operating around Clark said they would step up attacks against American soldiers, local officials and other "anti-revolutionary elements."

Ariel Miranda, spokesman of the rebels' Mariano Garcia Brigade, said the rebels also have targeted Americans assigned to Subic Bay Naval Base in nearby Olongapo City, 80 kilometres (50 miles) west of Manila, and the US communications facility at Camp O'Donnell in Tarlac province north of Angeles.

Last September, guerrillas ambushed and killed two US civilian employees working at camp O'Donnell to coincide

with the visit in Manila of US Vice President Dan Quayle. The urban guerrilla squad has claimed responsibility for the killing of two US airmen in October 1987.

About 40,000 American troops, civilians and military dependents are stationed at Clark. Subic and four other smaller military installations in the Philippines.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus expressed concern today that US budget cuts might reduce Washington's payments for its military bases to the Philippines this year. Manglapus also said he was disappointed with US President George Bush's administration for not pushing the US Congress to allow American military bases in Asia and the Pacific to buy Philippine goods.

Panel to study poll reforms in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 9, (Agencies): A conference of political parties called by Prime Minister V.P. Singh agreed today to the formation of a special committee to recommend election reforms to end fraud and reduce the influence of big business and organised crime on polls.

Singh opened the five-hour meeting of 22 political organisations by soliciting ideas to break the " nexus between money, mafia and politicians."

"Unless everyone puts their heads together, all will be affected in the short- or long-term," he declared.

The session ended with an agreement on the formation of a government committee to suggest changes in a host of areas and study the question of public funding of campaigns, Law Minister Dinesh Goswami later told reporters.

The recommendations would be presented to a second all-party conference for consideration, following which the government would draft an election reform bill for submission to Parliament, he said.

The special panel would comprise officials, "representatives of opposition parties, experts connected with various electoral systems and political personalities with different shades of opinion," he said.

"The committee would be appointed at the earliest and asked to submit its recommendations at the shortest time so that comprehensive legislation could be introduced at the earliest," Goswami said.

Singh made a promise of electoral reforms a major plank of his campaign for last November parliamentary polls that brought to power on Dec 2 his five-party National Front Alliance in a minority government backed by right- and left-wing groups.

The need to revamp the election laws of the world's largest democracy was driven home during the polls by widespread rigging and the deaths of more than 150 people, the worst fatality toll of any nation-wide parliamentary contest since independence from Britain in 1947.

Extensive repolling was ordered, including in the Amethi district of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, because of fraud and violence.

Much of the bloodshed was prompted by attempts at sexual " booth-capturing," in which hoodlums hired by candidates seize polling stations with the co-operation of crooked election officials and then stuff ballot boxes with fake ballots.

Experts say the practice has grown in recent years, particularly in northern India, forcing many candidates to pay organised crime bosses for help in protecting booths in areas in which they command support.

In some cases, reputed gangster bosses have themselves run for office. Several Congress (I) party candidates who won election in the parliamentary polls have been charged in criminal cases, including murder.

French premier to visit India

NEW DELHI, Jan 9, (UPI): French Prime Minister Michel Rocard will pay a two-day visit to India next week for the first talks between a Western government leader and Prime Minister V.P. Singh, the Foreign Ministry announced today.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Rocard would be accompanied by a high-level delegation that would include Michel Delabarre, the minister of equipment, housing, transport and sea affairs, and Agriculture and Forests Minister Henri Nallet.

Rocard's wife will join him for the visit. The spokesman said the Jan 18-19 visit would coincide with the end of a year-long French cultural festival, the closing ceremonies of which Rocard would attend.

Indian expedition members killed

NEW DELHI, Jan 9, (UPI): Three government scientists and a naval communications technician with an Indian expedition in Antarctica have died from carbon monoxide poisoning, the government announced.

Revealing few details, including the date of the incident, an announcement said the scientists of the Geological Survey of India and the Indian Navy servicemen were killed in the Humboldt Mountain range of Antarctica.



2 signalmen held

Pakistani police said yesterday they had arrested two of the three signalmen working at Sangli train station when the nation's worst-ever rail disaster struck. The two will face manslaughter charges levied after the driver of an express passenger train in the southern province of Sind told authorities he had been signalled to proceed last Wednesday. The express train continued ahead but struck a stationary freight train killing 307 people and injuring 430. Picture shows railway cranes lifting a section of a wrecked train. (Reuters wirephoto)

Islamabad envoy meets Gujral

Indo-Pak bid to improve ties

NEW DELHI, Jan 9, (UPI): India and Pakistan today considered "ways and means by which to revitalize the delicate process of improving relations and also explored the possibility of undertaking "new initiatives" to accelerate the effort, the Foreign Ministry said.

A "wide-ranging review" of Indo-Pakistan relations was undertaken during an 80-minute meeting between Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and Abdul Sattar, a special envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The talks came on the second day of a visit by Sattar primarily intended to identify issues on which the new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh and Pakistan could focus in trying to restart efforts to improve long-trodden ties.

Sattar was expected to meet Singh tomorrow. He was to depart tomorrow night or on Thursday morning.

The neighbours have remained at odds in myriad areas, including their northernmost border, military deployments and arms buildups, nuclear programmes and the sharing of river waters.

"The minister and the special envoy discussed ways and means of moving forward and relaxing

Pak opposition protests media bias

ISLAMABAD, Jan 9, (Reuters): Scores of opposition members of Parliament burned newspapers and shouted slogans outside the headquarters of Pakistan Television in Islamabad today to protest alleged bias in government media.

Opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi said state-owned television, radio and newspapers were increasingly being used as the private property of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party.

Protesters also demanded the lifting of travel, trade, consular matters and cultural exchanges, the spokesman said without elaborating.

India and Pakistan both impose stringent requirements on visits by each other's citizens. Islamabad has resisted expanding a limited list of Indian imports for fear that Pakistan could be swamped with inferior mass-produced products from the world's seventh largest industrial sector.

The spokesman said Gujral and Sattar, a former Pakistani envoy to India and currently ambassador to Moscow, "also discussed the possibilities of making new initiative in order to accelerate the process of normalization in bilateral relations."

"If you watch TV you will realise that it is nothing but a propaganda tool for the PPP," he told reporters after marching the few hundred metres between the Parliament building and the television centre. Demonstrations are usually banned in the Pakistan capital, but police remained well in the background.

Jatoi said Benazir promised to free Pakistan's single television channel when she came to power in December 1988, but had instead tightened controls.

In that context, the spokesman said, the pair agreed to schedule "as early as possible" meetings of their secretaries of defence, home affairs, foreign affairs and water resources "so that the way is paved" for eventual discussions between Gujral and Pakistani Foreign Minister Shahabzada Yaqub Khan.

While declining to go into extensive details of the meeting, the spokesman said Gujral and Sattar discussed charges that Pakistan is backing Sikh separatists in India's northern Punjab state and Muslim secessionist in the disputed Kashmir region.

He gave no further details. Violence in both Kashmir and Punjab has been increasing, confronting Singh's minority National Front government with

serious problems that were allowed to fester by the previous Congress (I) party administration of Rajiv Gandhi.

Rajiv in 1989 paid the first visit to Islamabad by an Indian Prime Minister in more than 30 years to launch with Benazir the latest effort to improve relations, with the pair agreeing to boost air and rail linkages, cultural exchanges and co-operation on border patrols.

But the effort foundered because of political developments in both countries. While Rajiv resorted to anti-Pakistan rhetoric in his unsuccessful bid to retain power in late November parliamentary polls, Benazir came under fire from her opposition for taking a conciliatory approach toward India.

Fugitive to surrender

Car heist gambled away

LOS ANGELES, Jan 9, (AP): The son of a former Delaware prosecutor gambled away \$651,000 stolen in a Philadelphia armored car heist and now wants to surrender, according to published reports.

"I stole the money because I thought I could gamble it through gambling, and then I would give half to the company I stole it from," said a letter supposedly written by Edward Leigh Hunt Jr., a federal fugitive.

Hunt was a guard on the armored truck that was robbed in January 1988.

"I used my gambling system, but I lost it all," said the letter, postmarked in suburban Inglewood and sent to the News Journal newspaper in Wilmington, Delaware.

"We're still looking for him," an FBI official in Los Angeles said, according to the Los Angeles Times today.

The letter states that Hunt wishes to surrender to authorities at the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce on Jan 20, the second anniversary of the robbery.

Enclosed was a photograph showing a picture of a shaggy-haired Hunt emerging from a swimming pool.

Federal agents who have been looking for Hunt since the 1988 robbery say they're pretty sure the letter is legitimate.

and steam at least five miles (eight kms) into the air, scientists said.

Redoubt produced a "vigorous" eruption at 10:20 am local time, said Steve Brantley of the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

Announcing the reshuffle, Carlsson told reporters that Industry Minister Ivar Nordberg and Social Minister Sven Hultenstrom had resigned for personal reasons. (UPI)

Redoubt volcano erupts Redoubt volcano rumbled to life Monday, spitting ash

power stations by the year 2010 as previously planned.

In a referendum in 1980, 39 percent of Sweden voted to close their 12 nuclear power plants by 2010, 38.7 per cent voted to close them immediately while 18.9 per cent voted to keep nuclear power.

Former Polish envoy dies: Tadeusz Brzezinski, a former Polish consul-general to Montreal and father of former US national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, has died of pneumonia in a Montreal nursing home. He was 94.

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British Muslims begin weeklong vigil at Rushdie's publishers

LONDON, Jan 9, (AP): British Muslims yesterday began a weeklong vigil outside the headquarters of Viking Penguin, publisher of "The Satanic Verses," while organisers appeared to distance themselves from the death threat against author Salman Rushdie.

A news conference to announce the vigil, Mugharram Ali Ghamdi, chairman of the UK Action Committee on Islamic Affairs, said the demonstration is a reminder that the affair, begun with the book's publication in September 1988, is not over.

Threats also were made to Viking Penguin. A police officer is on 24-hour duty outside and three security guards now watch over the headquarters' glass, entrance hall, with its x-ray machine of the kind used for luggage at airports.

Publisher's spokesman Bob Gregory said there was no connection between the Muslim's vigil and publication of a paperback edition of "The Satanic Verses."

Muslims say "The Satanic Verses" blasphemes Islam. On Feb 14, 1989, the late

Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini issued a religious edict calling on Muslims to kill Rushdie.

Khomeini's action drove the 42-year-old Indian-born writer into hiding and two Iranian clerics offered a bounty of \$5.2 million for Rushdie's death.

"Since the sensationalism has receded, what remains is a genuine and permanent bitterness in the hearts and minds of ordinary Muslims," Ali Ghamdi said.

Although he warned that the bitterness would increase if the book were not withdrawn and other demands met, he and the UK action committee did not support the death threat.

"We appeal all the time to Muslims in Britain to keep within the limits of the law," said Iqbal Saroomi, a convener of the committee. "We will not condone any overstepping of the law."

The UK action committee, however, refused to condemn the death threat.

Marcos mother

Body to be entombed

MANILA, Jan 9, (AP): The body of Ferdinand Marcos' mother will be entombed next Sunday, almost two years since her death in 1988, the family's mortician said today.

Francisco Malabed said the family of the late Philippines president asked him to prepare for the funeral of Mrs Josefa Edrila Marcos on Jan 21 in Ilocos Norte province, 350 kilometres (220 miles) north of Manila.

Malabed said the decision was made by Marcos' brother Pacifico and sister Fortuona after the former ruler died in exile in Hawaii last September.

He said Josefa, who died May 4, 1988, would be kept in a refrigerated encasement until both mother and son are allowed to be buried together in the Philippines.

Corason Aquino, who became President after Marcos' ouster in 1986, has banned the burial of her predecessor here for security reasons.

\$35 million winner emerges

NEW YORK, Jan 9, (AP): The sole winner of Saturday's \$35-million lotto jackpot turned in his ticket yesterday afternoon, lottery officials announced.

The Westchester county man asked that his identity be withheld oneday, said Bill Knowlton, a lottery spokesman.

The man agreed to meet reporters with his family this morning at a news conference sponsored by the state lottery in Manhattan, Knowlton said.

On Sunday an actress perpetrating a hoax claimed to have the winning ticket and attracted some media attention.

The New York Daily News newspaper revealed the hoax in its late edition yesterday.

It was every editor's nightmare—a hoax that landed on page one and was the top story on the television news.

The hoax was a young woman's widely-trumpeted claim that she was the lone winner of the \$35 million New York state lottery, the largest single prize in the contest's history.

The woman, calling herself "Charlie Taylor," and accomplices hired a \$400 a night hotel suite and called in the press to celebrate her "victory" with champagne.

But Taylor was lying and her claim was an event carefully orchestrated by professional hoaxer Alan Abel, who once coined the New York Times into printing his obituary and on another occasion looked at 30 reporters in a room to meet an actor posing as "Deep Throat" of Watergate fame.

The New York Post put the story on page one headlined "35 million dollars and she's single". The Times ran a story on the lottery on an inside page and reported that the woman had claimed a win.

But the Daily News blared, "It's a hoax."

The paper said its reporter Ingrid Devita went up to the hotel suite and noticed a sign on a room that said, "slumber room, do not disturb." She opened the door and recognised Abel because she once took a course he gave on practical joking.

Abel showed no remorse. "People are a bit upset but we are a group of merry pranksters, so what can you do?" he said.

News managing editor Matthew Stornin said Devita "went the extra mile" by opening the door. Her scoop landed in the paper's last edition just as the rival Post was putting out its final 100,000 copies proclaiming "Charlie Taylor" as the new queen of New York.

It was the latest in a series of hoaxes that have haunted the American press in recent weeks.

MONTH'S MIND

IN EVERLOVING MEMORY OF

Mr. Joseph Pouchere

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Expired 18-12-89

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Traffic stopper

Bob Havens became a traffic stopper Jan 8 as he repaired a malfunctioning traffic signal in downtown Indianapolis. (Reuter wirephoto).

Buchwald must be paid for his idea

LOS ANGELES, Jan 9, (AP): Paramount Pictures Corp. must pay Art Buchwald for the script idea the humour columnist claimed was the basis for the hit Eddie Murphy movie "Coming to America," a judge tentatively ruled yesterday.

"The court concludes that 'Coming to America' was based upon a material element of or was inspired by Buchwald's 'treatment,'" Judge Harvey A. Schneider wrote in a 34-page statement released yesterday morning.

Official

The decision becomes official in 10 days unless attorneys on either side raise issues not covered by it. After that, the ruling could be appealed.

In his ruling, Schneider did not specify how much Buchwald should be paid but did say that the amount will not include punitive damages. The Los Angeles county court judge also took pains to specify that Murphy contributed considerably to the finished film.

The judge ordered a new phase of the breach-of-contract trial to determine how much money Paramount owes Buchwald.

"We don't agree with the judge's decision," Paramount said in a statement. The company said there would be an appeal. Murphy was at work on a movie on location in Mexico and could not be reached for comment.

Buchwald expressed joy at the ruling, but quipped that he wouldn't write any more movie ideas for the next 10 years.

"I am very, very happy. This thing is not only an important thing for me. I think it's really important for writers," he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview from Washington.

Profits

"I didn't know what I was getting into when I started because those guys play rough, and we beat them. And that makes me very happy," Buchwald said.

Pierce O'Donnell, Buchwald's attorney, said Buchwald and his partner, producer Alain Bernheim, could stand to collect \$5 million to \$10 million in their share of the film's profits.

Paramount maintains the film, which has grossed in excess of \$300 million since its 1988 release, has yet to show a profit. In his opinion, Schneider ruled that the humourist did not base his idea, entitled "King for a Day," on a 1957 Charlie Chaplin movie entitled "A King in New York."

Abstinence

To find the right mate

CHICAGO, Jan 9, (AP): Some holdouts from the sexual revolution have banded together in the National Chastity Association, a group that believes abstinence is the best way to find the perfect mate.

The group is the brainchild of Mary Meyer, a 37-year-old mother of two who says "I love sex," but thinks it's not the best route to forming "an everlasting happy relationship."

Ms Meyer, who's been married and divorced "more than once," said yesterday she learned the hard way that sex before marriage can lead to "unnecessary pain" in relationships.

"I did not save sex until marriage in all of my marriages," she said in a telephone interview. But after a lot of soul-searching, Ms Meyer said she developed 19 concepts of a desirable relationship that form her group's ideology.

The group is a kind of dating service to help people meet others who share their values. Members don't have to follow all the "19 desires," but they must agree with most of them, Ms Meyer said.

Members pay \$15 a year, and get their names published in a group directory that lists brief self-descriptions.

After being in operation for just nine months, the association has managed to attract about 270 members from the United States and Canada, Ms Meyer said.

Desire No. 15 has prompted the most controversy. It says, "I want to save handholding, kissing, caressing and sexual intercourse until I'm actually married."

"That's certainly talked about a little bit more than any of the other 19 desires," she said. Some say it would make it impossible to know if a date is Mr or Ms right.

But Ms Meyer responds, "I have no doubt that I can determine... if we're meant for each other without being romantically physical."

Another possible stumbling block is No. 11, which says being free of drugs, alcohol, smoking and anxiety for at least two years before marriage is desirable.

"It's the first group that I've really run across where people really had a very positive attitude toward sex," said David Dismore, a 43-year-old self-described virgin from Los Angeles who says he's still waiting to meet the right person.

Dance Music awards

Soul II favourite

LOS ANGELES, Jan 9, (UPI): The English group Soul outdistanced Dance Music divas Paula Abdul and Janet Jackson to grab the most dance music award nominations announced yesterday.

The award honors the year's most popular and innovative dance tunes and the musicians and record companies behind them. Nominations and winners are selected by disc jockeys and nightclub operators nationwide in addition to a 50-member advisory board of record label executives.

A newcomer to the American music scene, Soul II Soul was nominated in six of 21 categories including best dance group, best dance artist and best new artist on a major label.

Abdul, Jackson and Bobby Brown were runners-up with four nominations apiece.

Abdul, a former Lakers cheerleader who has choreographed music videos for Jackson and others, received nominations for best dance artist and best dance music video, as was Jackson.

The list of categories include best rap group, best dance music producer, best dance music re-mixer and best dance music label.

"The Fabulous Baker Boys," the story of two pianist-brothers who add a woman singer to their nightclub act, also won three awards from the society, which comprises

Lagging in health and educational progress

America is failing its children

WASHINGTON, Jan 9, (UPI): The US is failing its children, ranking behind Libya, Cuba and Singapore in key measures of health and educational progress, the children's defence fund said yesterday.

In an end-of-the-decade report card, the Advocacy Group said the "unsatisfactory" performance of the US in caring for children is reflected in all 50 states and the district of Columbia.

Assigning grades in 20 categories including reducing infant mortality and funding programme such as Head Start, the CDF said only Vermont managed a mark of 65 out of 100, and only Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Connecticut and Delaware joined it in scoring higher than 50.

The average grade was 32 per cent, and

20 states scored 25 per cent or less. New Mexico had the worst grade, 10 per cent, and Colorado, Idaho, Kansas and South Dakota earned marks of 15 per cent.

"As the wealthiest nation on earth and the standard-bearer of democracy, we have an 'a' capacity to care for our children, but an 'F' performance on many key indicators of child well-being," said CDF president Marian Wright Edelman.

"In many important areas affecting children we do not even rank in the top 10," Edelman said, calling for childcare legislation as well as increased funding for government programme including Medicaid and Head Start.

In comparisons with other countries, the report said then US ranked:

Hong Kong and Spain.

■ 22nd in childhood mortality, behind East Germany and Singapore.

■ 15th in childhood immunisation against polio, behind Hungary and Poland.

■ 19th in teacher-student ratios in public elementary and secondary schools, behind Libya, Lebanon and Cuba.

Black US children, compared with children in other countries, ranked:

■ 30th in infant mortality, with a black child in Boston having less chance of surviving its first year than a child born in Panama or North or South Korea.

■ 49th in childhood immunisation against polio, behind Botswana, Sri Lanka, Albania and Columbia.

The report, which was based on studies

by the US government, the UN children's Fund and other sources, also found:

■ In a study of eight industrialised nations — the United States, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, West Germany, Canada, England and Australia — the United States had the highest child poverty rate. Children are the poorest US citizens.

■ The United States and South Africa are the only industrialised nations that fail to provide universal health coverage for children and parents or to provide parental leave.

■ The United States has the highest teenage pregnancy rates among six industrialised countries studied, including France, England and Wales, Canada, the Netherlands and Sweden.

Patient made to starve

Mercy killing of coma woman

THE HAGUE, Jan 9, (Reuter): Dutch doctors yesterday began starving to death a woman who has lain in a coma for 15 years, complying with her husband's wish that she be allowed to die.

The mercy-killing case has aroused a torrent of criticism from doctors who say that starving 47-year-old Ineke Stinissen is a particularly gruesome way of ending her life.

Doctors at Wiedenbroek Convalescent Home in the eastern town of Haaksbergen stopped feeding Stinissen, who was expected to die in several weeks, a lawyer for the family said.

Stinissen fell into a coma after an anaesthesia error while giving birth in 1974 and her husband Gerhard has waged a long court battle to force the convalescent home to let her die.

In November last year, a Dutch court ruled Ger-

hard Stinissen had no right to force doctors to end his wife's life.

But it left the way open for doctors to let her die by ruling that her artificial feeding was medical treatment which they had discretion to stop — rather than life sustaining treatment, which doctors are ethically bound to continue.

Euthanasia is officially illegal in the Netherlands. It is widely tolerated under strict medical guidelines, but only when a fatally ill patient is conscious and can make his or her wishes clearly known.

"It was the first time that artificial feeding was viewed by a court as medical treatment in certain circumstances. It means there are more possibilities (that lead to an ending of life) that are acceptable in the eyes of the law," Stinissen's lawyer Eugene Sutornus told Reuters.

Murder weapon stolen to kill wife

BOSTON, Jan 9, (AP): Another strange twist yesterday in the murder of a pregnant woman that grabbed national headlines and triggered charges of racism in Boston added to speculation that her husband committed the crime.

The latest clue that pointed a finger at Charles Stuart came with confirmation that a .38-caliber revolver was stolen from the Edward F. Kallas and Sons fire store where he worked as a manager. The gun might have been the weapon used to kill his pregnant wife and wound him.

"I believe what happened with Charles, this was the doing of a sick mind," Pat Reardon, a constable, said yesterday.

Jay Kallas, co-owner of the fire store, told police that a revolver was stolen from the safe at the store, a representative of the store, who asked not to be identified, confirmed yesterday.

Stuart also had access to the safe, the representative said, and the Kallas thought to check the safe last week after police named Stuart as the prime suspect.

Investigators have refused to comment on the disappearance of the gun. Other clues also have emerged in what some officials said at first looked like a near-perfect crime. Most notably, Matthew Stuart was apparently not the only person to know of his brother's involvement. He told his attorney that he told family members and friends about the scheme.

Matthew Stuart declined to comment on the case as he left the family home yesterday, telling reporters, "I can't talk to you."

Another brother, Michael Stuart, was questioned yesterday at the Suffolk county attorney's office. His lawyer, Richard Clayman, said his client "thinks as law."

Legal experts say the family members had no legal duty to contact police about their suspicions.

"There is no obligation," John Dawley, who was Charles Stuart's attorney, said last week. "But morally and ethically, there are different standards."

Police are investigating whether insurance was a motive behind the crime. Stuart collected \$82,000 on an insurance policy due his wife for her work as an attorney, and a search of the couple's records found he had used another \$100,000 policy on her, according to various sources.

Police reportedly also are investigating whether a romantic relationship between Stuart and another woman might have been a factor.

Stuart originally told police that he and his wife were the victims of a mugger who forced his way into their car Oct 23 as they left a birthing class.

Stuart's wife, Carol, died hours after the shooting, and their premature baby, Christopher, died 17 days later. Charles Stuart, who was wounded in the stomach, said a black man had committed the crime.

The case shocked people across the United States worried about urban violence and elicited concern from several Boston officials, including Governor Michael Dukakis, a former Democratic presidential candidate.



File photo of (L-R) Dennis Avery, daughter Rebecca, Trina and Karen, Avery's wife Cheryl. (Reuter wirephoto)

Cult slayers won't waive

Extradition to Ohio

NATIONAL CITY, California, Jan 9, (AP): A cult leader, his wife and their son wanted in the slayings of a family of five told referees yesterday they would refuse to waive extradition to another state.

Jeffrey Lundgren, 39, a former Sunday-school teacher and tour guide in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Ohio, was arrested outside a California motel near the Mexican border Sunday.

Lundgren's 38-year-old wife, Alice, and the couple's 19-year-old son, Damon, also were arrested there. Three other Lundgren children — Kristen, 10, Caleb, 9, and Jason, 15 — were taken into protective custody, said Andrew Vira, the special agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Office in Los Angeles.

John Hewicker, a San Diego county deputy district attorney who handles extraditions, said yesterday that the Lundgrens told investigators they would refuse to waive extradition to Ohio, where they face charges that include aggravated murder and kidnapping.

The Lundgrens were to be in state court today for arraignment on fugitive charges, Hewicker said. The extradition hearing would come later, he said.

In recent days, Kirtland police had been keeping a close watch of the homes of residents who were once threatened by Lundgren.

Lundgren broke away from the Reorganized Church and persuaded other members to follow him, officials said. The group once lived on a 15-acre (six-hectare) farm near the Cleveland-area town, where investigators last week unearthed five bodies. Authorities believe the five are Dennis Avery, his wife, Cheryl, and their three young daughters.

Investigators believe the Averys were killed in mid-April and buried in a common grave under the barn.

Searches of the southern California motel room and a nearby storage area rented by Jeffrey Lundgren uncovered numerous weapons, including an AR-15 assault rifle, as well as ammunition, knives and gas masks, Vira said.

Authorities had been watching the motel since Saturday night, said George Rodriguez, a special agent for the ATF in Kansas City, Missouri.

Lundgren and 12 of his followers were indicted by a Lake County, Ohio, grand jury in the killings. Two followers — Kathryn Renee Johnson, 36, of Holden, Missouri, and Daniel David Craft, 25, of Nauvoo, Illinois — remain at large.

Crafts, 52, was convicted of killing 39-year-old Helle Crafts, a Danish-born flight attendant, on Nov 18 or 19, 1986, at their Newtown home. Prosecutors said he cut the body with a chainsaw and fed parts through a wood chipper on a bridge between Newtown and Southbury. He could have been sentenced to 25 years to life in prison for his conviction.

Craft's sister, Karen Rodgers, who has custody of the couple's three young children, urged Nigro to impose the minimum sentence.

"I am concerned that Mr Crafts has not publicly nor privately demonstrated any remorse for the murder of his wife," Rodgers said. "I believe he has paid lip service only to the concerns of his children."

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SALEM, Oregon: With their wedding behind them, octogenarians Clarence Brownley and Olaf Hutter are ready to start their new life together.

Brownley and Hutter, both 83, were married Saturday at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. It was the third marriage for each.

The couple was introduced last year through the bride's son, David Evenhouse, and Brownley's son Mel, who work together.

After the introduction, the rest was up to the couple, said Mel Brownley.

"They did it on their own," he said. "We just arranged for them to meet." (AP)

SEOUL, South Korea: Subway authorities say they will hire new workers to push commuters into jammed trains at subway stations.

More than 130 workers will be deployed at 20 crowded stations in Seoul to help commuters squeeze their way into cars and prevent rush-hour delays, officials said Monday.

About 3 million people use four subway lines daily, with 1 million at rush-hours, causing congestion at key stations and slowing the overall operation of the subway system.

Seoul plans to build three more subway lines in the 1990s to meet growing public demands. (AP)

CARMEL, Indiana: Tom Cruise never complained as he slept on the ground, dug for holes and went without showers during filming of "Born on the Fourth of July," says an actor who played alongside the star.

Wright, 20, of Carmel, has a small role in the movie about Vietnam War hero's struggle of coming home from the war as a paraplegic.

Wright said Cruise was one of the boys in the weeks of training by marines.

"We were digging for holes. Cruise was digging right beside us. He went all out and did everything we did," Wright said.

Kovic's presence on the set was powerful, he said.

"You think it is just a film then you look over at him and realize that he lived it," Wright said. (AP)

PORT CLINTON, Ohio: A bandit wearing a handkerchief to conceal his face pulled a Wild West-style train holdup at a railroad crossing, authorities said.

County Sheriff's Department are investigating the robbery of two Conrail crew members aboard a freight train, sheriff's dispatcher Gale Zelms said Sunday.

Conrail spokeswoman Barbara Vaseo said a man armed with a shotgun boarded the freight train Saturday while it was stopped at a railroad crossing to check an air leak.

The bandit, who wore a handkerchief tied around his head, robbed two crew members of personal belongings and then ran off, the spokeswoman said. (AP)

MOSCOW: Thieves stole a painting by 19th-century French artist Theodore Rousseau from a museum in central Russia, the newspaper Pravda reports.

The thieves broke in through a window, cut the canvas from its frame, and fled even though they set off an alarm, the Communist Party daily paper said Sunday. The painting is a landscape whose Russian title translates as "Before the thunder."

The report did not say when the robbery occurred.

V. Sazonov, director of the museum in Penza, told Pravda the work was considered one of Rousseau's best, and the thieves might try to sell it abroad.

Rousseau, who died in 1867, was a landscape painter and leader of the Barbizon School. Prices for his paintings in recent years have ranged from \$1,000 to \$100,000. (AP)

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Drug sentinel

File photo of aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, which Colombian press reports said was dispatched for Colombia's Caribbean coast to stop boats and planes used to smuggle drugs. The US Defence Department said it was deployed for routine training in the Atlantic operating area. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barry denies Jackson criticism

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (AP): Mayor Marion Barry claims Jesse Jackson would be the laughing stock of America if he ran for mayor of the nation's capital, a newspaper has reported.

"I don't understand it," Barry said Sunday. "I couldn't possibly have said what they said I said (about Jackson)."

The Los Angeles Times newspaper reported Barry's remarks about Jackson, a former presidential candidate, civil rights leader and potential rival for mayor, in its Sunday editions.

In a profile story, Barry compared himself to Jesus and Gandhi, both of whom he says were persecuted for doing good work. At another point, the mayor spoke of his sexual prowess and made a hasty stop at a lingerie shop to browse.

In the story, Barry was quoted as dismissing the possibility that Jackson, who moved to Washington from Chicago last summer, would enter this year's mayoral race.

Barry also was quoted as saying he was "invincible" and predicted he will get at least 65 per cent of the vote in the Democratic mayoral primary this fall.

Barry also was quoted as vowing revenge on political allies who have abandoned or criticized him.

"Chickens, goats and Judases," the three-term was quoted as saying. "I'm gonna cut 'em off at the knees." Barry indicated he was especially angry with several campaign fund-raisers who he said had deserted him and were talking to the media about him.

"Jews, too," the mayor was quoted as saying, referring to two fund-raisers who were not identified in the article. "Jews should be the last to spread rumours, they've been persecuted themselves."

John Brownell, an assistant managing editor at the Los Angeles Times, said the remarks attributed to Barry were "absolutely true."

"We have reported exactly what we heard," Brownell told the Washington Post newspaper. "The reporter spent a good deal of time with the mayor, and we are very confident the article reflects accurately our experience with him."

Black's bid to be S. Carolina gov.

GREENVILLE, South Carolina, Jan 9. (UPI): Experts believe it would be an uphill battle, but that doesn't seem to bother state Senator Theo Mitchell, who wants to become the first black governor of South Carolina.

The 51-year-old Democrat, a Greenville lawyer, announced at a bus stop plaza named in his honour that he will seek the Democratic nomination for governor in the June primary election.

"It is my fervent belief that I have a duty to commit my life to this endeavour as I have attempted to do in my public career," Mitchell told a gathering of supporters and news media.

Billy Carter's autobiography contends grand jury probes left him broke

ALBANY, Georgia, Jan 9. (AP): Federal investigations of Billy Carter's activities destroyed him financially, the brother of former president Jimmy Carter said in a book he wrote before his death in 1988.

Grand juries investigated Billy Carter's role in the family peanut warehouse and whether the business helped bankroll Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign.

A grand jury is a panel of citizens who review evidence and decide whether a case should go to trial and, if so, which charges

No blockade, assures US

Bogota FM won't quit

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (Agencies): The US government said publicly yesterday it was not planning a naval blockade off Colombia as part of its fight against drug trafficking, and the Colombian government said it had received private assurances as well.

A Colombian official in Bogota late yesterday ruled out a radio report that the Foreign Minister Julio Londono Parades would resign.

"I know that the Colombian foreign minister is on holiday, is currently on the Islands of San Andres and Providencia, and I know that he will return tomorrow to his office in the Foreign Ministry," Colombia's Ambassador to the United States Victor Mosquera Chaux told the independent Radio Caracol.

The radio station had earlier reported that Londono, who had strongly criticised the United States, was going to resign.

A statement issued by the Colombian embassy said the United States had said it would not interfere with Colombian flag ships, even on the high seas, without the permission of Colombian Defence Ministry.

Other Colombian officials had accused the United States of moving toward a naval and air blockade, generating some confusion over the weekend as to the respective positions of the two governments.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said the administration is considering use of the navy but she said a blockade is not among the options.

"A blockade would mean shutting down everything, and that, obviously, is not our intention," she said.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, travelling with President George Bush on a trip to Orlando, Florida, said that two US ships had left port and were on manoeuvres in the

Atlantic but that future deployment near Colombia would depend on talks with the Barco government. He said no agreement had been reached in preliminary discussions and praised the Colombian government for prior co-operation.

Dismissing the significance of suggestions that Colombia would reject a US naval role off its coast, Fitzwater said, "I think the problem is we haven't had a chance here to really explore it with them." He said the United States was not taking blocking action now.

Meanwhile, Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said Defence Secretary Dick Cheney plans to unveil the administration's plans for military involvement in the anti-drug battle next week.

Bush has looked at sending US warships off the Colombian coast to help monitor and interdict narcotics traffickers, Defence Department sources have said.

The aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy has been chosen to lead such an effort if the White House gives the signal to move forward, the sources have said.

However, it has been unclear whether Colombia will agree to the plan.

The State Department spokeswoman said there have been no more than low level consultations on the subject of increased US efforts in the area thus far with Colombian officials.

■ The military attacked leftist guerrilla strongholds yesterday with A-37 fighter jets donated by the United States to help in Colombia's drug war, the Caracol radio network quoted military sources as saying.

Meanwhile, authorities found the body of the Mayor of Achi, a town 527 miles (848 km) north of the capital, three days after leftist guerrillas had kidnapped the official, Caracol reported.



Emotional reunion

A leading rebel official and eight fighters from the US-backed Contra guerrillas gave up their campaign against the Sandinista government and returned home Monday to take part in the electoral process.

It was the first Contra group to return under the auspices of a joint United Nations-Organisation of American States committee charged with supervising demobilisation of the rebel forces.

Luis Fley, a long-time official at the rebels' Honduras office, said the group had decided to return as an expression of support for the Central American peace process and to "contribute to the process of national reconciliation."

The UN-OAS committee was established under the terms of accords reached by the five Central American presidents calling for demobilisation of the Contras in exchange for fair elections in Nicaragua. Contras who want to take part in elections scheduled for Feb 25 must return to Nicaragua by Feb 5.

Other Nicaraguans, mostly civilians, have returned under a different amnesty programme.

Picture shows Luis Fley and Commandante Johnson wiping away his tears as he embraces his mother Teodora. He has not seen his mother in nine years. (Reuters wirephoto)

No hand in priest killings: top brass

SAN SALVADOR, Jan 9. (UPI): The military contends its high command was not involved in the slayings of six Jesuit priests but acknowledged some officers may be linked to the slayings.

"The high command is not linked to this act," a spokesman for Salvadoran armed forces said yesterday. The high command consists of the defence minister and the armed forces top three officers.

The spokesman, however, admitted some officers could be involved in the incident, which sparked international outrage and for a time had threatened US aid to the Central American nation.

"One thing is evident. Someone gave the order," the spokesman said. "This is an isolated act, outside any institutional policy."

President Alfredo Cristiani said in brief nationally televised address Sunday night. "It has been determined that some elements of the armed forces were involved."

The Rev. Miguel Francisco Estrada, who replaced one of the slain priests as rector of the University of Central America in San Salvador, said yesterday, "It is noteworthy, although not so much for its content since we have said from the start that the armed forces were involved... what surprised us is that the president said it in public. That is positive and encouraging news."

Cristiani, who has repeatedly denied that his US-backed government was involved in the killings, said a special "honour commission" comprised of army officers and civilian lawyers had been formed "with the goal of determining the exact circumstances and bringing out the truth in all its magnitude."

"Your government and your armed forces are committed to discover every last person implicated in this detestable crime," Cristiani said.

A military source, who asked not to be identified, said five officers, including a colonel, and five enlisted men had been detained in connection with the slayings of the priests, their cook and her daughter. There was no official confirmation of the arrests, however.

Cristiani characterised the investigation into the killings as proof of his administration's commitment to protect human rights.

Cristiani is a member of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, or Arena.

The slayings, reportedly carried out by a group of armed men who entered the priest's living quarters on the campus of the Jesuit-run University of Central America, occurred during a massive rebel offensive that turned San Salvador into a battleground between government troops and leftist guerrillas.

The slain Jesuits, including the university's rector, Ignacio Ellacuria, were considered El Salvador's top leftist intellectuals.

El Salvador's Roman Catholic church was quick to blame elements of the armed forces for the killings, and Cristiani immediately promised a thorough investigation.

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Noriega to be moved to a more secure jail

Deal sought with general's co-defendants to strengthen case

MIAMI, Jan 9. (AP): A newspaper reported today that US officials plan to move Manuel Antonio Noriega to a more secure prison out of the state of Florida, but two of the deposed Panamanian leader's attorneys said yesterday they had no knowledge of the move.

In other developments US prosecutors are trying to woo co-defendants of Noriega into striking deals to testify against Noriega and bolster the government's case. US officials and lawyers said.

The New York Times, quoting an anonymous person involved in the frankly, that they may have to move him from the place where he is being held now to a more suitable place for their security purposes.

"If this is not in the southern district of Florida or not suitable so that we can have access for meetings with our client, we will file the appropriate motions," Kollin said.

Another Noriega attorney, Frank Rubino, also said he had no knowledge of an imminent move. Both attorneys say they've been meeting daily with the ousted general.

Federal officials believe the Metropolitan Correctional Centre, a federal prison south of Miami, lacks adequate security for a prisoner as well known as Noriega, the Times said. Other sites considered for the move were Leavenworth, Kansas, and the nation's top maximum security prison in Marion, Illinois, but Atlanta was preferred because it is closest to Miami, the newspaper reported.

The first motions by Rubino and Kollin, which they don't expect to make for 30 days, will likely challenge the court's jurisdiction, the way Noriega was brought to this country after US invasion of Panama and requests for government documents.

An Attorney for a pilot accused of flying drug money for Noriega asked yesterday for disclosure of secret information obtained from US electronic surveillance in Panama.

The motion by attorney Michael O'Kane, representing Panamanian pilot Daniel Miranda, asked the court to compel release of classified information from a telecommunications monitoring operation at the US Southern Command.

The indictment charges that Miranda flew \$800,000 in drug money from Florida to Panama in 1983.

Meanwhile, attorneys for other co-defendants said yesterday there have been discussions with prosecutors — but "no deals."

Officials in the Bush administration have said they're not worried about potentially embarrassing disclosures in the Noriega case.

Other attorneys said there have been initial talks with Noriega co-defendants the government might want for witnesses.

"There was a very preliminary exchange of amenities where the possibility of some settlement was discussed," said Samuel Burstin, attorney for Luis Del Cid, a former Panamanian Defence Forces official and key aide to Noriega.

■ A researcher who met with Noriega last year says Noriega told him "the United States began its campaign to remove me" after he refused to allow Panama to be used as a base for the US-backed Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

Saul Landau, a senior fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, said Noriega told him last fall that John Poindexter, then-president Ronald Reagan's national security adviser, visited Panama in 1985 seeking Noriega's support for the Contras.

Austrian authorities have frozen assets allegedly belonging to Noriega, a Justice Ministry official said yesterday.

The head of the Justice Ministry's department of international criminal law, Gert Elesenstein, said the account was frozen at the request of US officials.

The respected Austrian daily Der Standard yesterday reported that the account was under the name of Noriega's wife, Felicidad Noriega. It said the account contained \$1.6 million, which the newspaper said was half a million dollars higher than US authorities had suspected.

planned move, said the likely site for Noriega's future detention is the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia, about 600 miles away.

Noriega is in a special holding cell deep within the downtown US courthouse in Miami, said sources who spoke on condition they not be identified. US marshals and Noriega's attorneys refuse to say where he is.

Steven Kollin, one of Noriega's attorneys, said last night, "up until now they (US marshals) have not intimidated in any way that they're going to remove him (from Miami). However they have told us,



MP Eva Ott stands next to a soldier at a military checkpoint in Panama City. Female military personnel were used for many parts of the Panama invasion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Women in combat

Role debated

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (Reuters): US Army Captain Linda Bray's role in the Panama campaign has revived debate on an old military question — should women be given frontline combat roles?

When Bray led her platoon into a battle against Panamanian soldiers during last month's US invasion, she was believed to be the first woman to lead US men into combat.

Women make up 11 per cent of US military forces, flying warplanes and performing combat support duties.

But they are barred by law from being assigned to fight in the navy or air force and an army regulation prohibits combat assignments for women.

Bray, 29, was ordered on Dec 20 to base her military police platoon in what was believed to be a deserted Panama Defence Force building housing dog kennels.

Her 30-man platoon, armed with machine-guns, grenade launchers and rifles, found the building defended by Panamanian soldiers loyal to deposed strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Three Panamanians were killed in a three-hour battle.

The Pentagon said later that no women were among the 23 US soldiers killed in the Panama invasion but several wound up in combat.

A Democratic Party representative, Patricia Schroeder, said Bray's action showed the time had come to recognise women's combat ability. She said she would introduce a bill to put women into an army combat unit on a test basis.

Opposition, however, remains strong. Those who want to keep the ban question whether women have the physical and psychological strength and stamina for prolonged combat. They suggest women in the front line might distract men or otherwise weaken fighting units.

The New York Times said in an editorial that the issue "reaches deep into the relations between the sexes and is fraught with politics and prejudice."

President George Bush said last week he was against removing the laws and regulations barring women from combat. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Senate armed services committee chairman Sam Nunn said they saw no need to lift the ban.

Nunn said women soldiers did a superb job in Panama, but US commanders there told him "they could not have been expected... to perform the direct, frontline combat roles."

Drugs flowing despite arrest

Noriega factor affect nil

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (AP): Experts say the flow of illegal drugs and drug money will be little affected by the arrest of Panama's Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is accused of allowing his nation to be used as a way-station for the cocaine trade.

"It inconveniences the Colombians no doubt some, but nothing that's going to make any noticeable difference to America's drug problems," said Peter Reuter of the Rand Corp, a military-oriented research group.

"No one ever said that Panama was the exclusive, or even the dominant laundry. Laundries are available in a lot of places," Reuter said.

Rensselaer Lee III, a consultant and lecturer who specialises in Latin American drug trafficking issues, added: "I get suspicious when people talk about major coups against the drug trade, because they're really not."

"In terms of any impact on the flow of drugs or money through the banking system, the impact of Noriega's arrest will be nil," Lee said. "I'm talking about the total flow of drugs, the total flow of money."

US forces invaded Panama on Dec 20 to apprehend Noriega, who was indicted in February 1988 in Florida on federal drug-trafficking and money-laundering charges.

Four days later, Noriega took refuge in the Vatican Embassy in Panama City, where he remained until he surrendered to the United States on Jan 3. He is now being held in the Miami area.

The Drug Enforcement Administration also is reluctant to expect any remarkable decline in drug trafficking or money-laundering now that Noriega is in US custody.

"No single event, no matter how significant it is, will result in the immediate impact on availability of drugs in the United States," said Frank Skults of the DEA. "At this point, we are not in a position to speculate on the long-term possibilities."

Scott B. Macdonald, an international economist who has written two books on the drug trade, said Noriega's ouster and arrest have had one important impact: "With Noriega gone, the one man in Panama who would very much allow the narcotics traffickers safe haven is gone. I think that is crucial. It means that the Medellín (cocaine cartel) people cannot suddenly disappear into Panama and not have to worry about it."

However, he said, Panama's importance as a money-laundering and transit centre for drugs had started declining in 1987.

US men besiege Noriega aides

PANAMA CITY, Jan 9. (Agencies): American soldiers have surrounded the Peruvian Ambassador's house in Panama City where two of Manuel Antonio Noriega's top associates and his secretary have taken refuge.

The two are former Capt. Gonzalo (Chalo) Gonzalez and former Lt. Col. Luis (Paxo) Cordoba.

Witnesses saw about 10 US soldiers in combat gear take up positions yesterday around the house in a middle-class suburb of the capital.

US officials said they believed Cordoba was among an unknown number of Panamanians holed up in the residence since last month's US invasion.

But Peruvian Charge d'Affaires Luis Sandiga told Reuters it was "totally false" that Cordoba was inside the building.

He said some Panamanians were inside but said only the government in Lima could disclose who they were or how many.

Sandiga told Reuters the soldiers had set up checkpoints in the road outside the residence and were halting and questioning pedestrians and drivers.

US troops have at various times surrounded several diplomatic missions in Panama where supporters of General Noriega had sought asylum.

Noriega himself took refuge in the Vatican's mission for 10 days before surrendering last week and being flown to the United States to face drug trafficking charges.

Washington withdrew 700 troops from Panama yesterday amid conflicting reports about the number of civilians killed in the invasion.

US Civil Rights leader Jesse Jackson charged that the United States killed 1,200 civilians in the operation, which he said was more than the Chinese killed in Tiananmen Square last June.

US Southern Command initially estimated civilian deaths at 250 but General Carl Stiner, commander of the US invasion, said last week 83 had died. Local human rights groups say about 200 civilians were killed.

The new Panamanian government under President Guillermo Endara has said that fresh polls could be held in some areas where adequate records of the results of annulled elections last May did not exist.

The authorities also disclosed that immigrants, particularly from Cuba, Libya and China, had paid tens of millions of dollars to Noriega associates for visas over the past five years.

In other developments, Panamanian first Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon said that his nation's new security force will include specialised military units, but they will not be large enough to threaten the government. The government also said it had sent a letter to Washington seeking US aid.

President Guillermo Endara sent a letter to US President Bush asking for financial assistance to create 24,000 new jobs and for loans to compensate businesses looted by rampaging crowds following the US invasion.

Looters caused an estimated \$1.5 billion in damage.

Second Vice President Guillermo Ford confirmed the letter had been sent, but declined to give any figures on economic aid requested.

■ The United States intends to free up as quickly as possible more of the remaining \$235 million in Panamanian assets frozen during the rule of Noriega. Deputy Secretary John Robson said yesterday.

مكذات الأهل

Hormone may help to lower pressure

DALLAS, Jan 9, (UPI): A hormone used experimentally to treat cancer and AIDS appears to dramatically lower high blood pressure in rats, and tests will soon begin to see if it helps humans with hypertension, researchers reported.

Researchers at the Masonic Medical Research Laboratory in Utica, N.Y. found that a tiny amount of an immune system hormone, called Interleukin-2 (IL-2), normalizes high blood pressure in rats.

Richard Tuttle, who directed the study, said he was so surprised by the first impressive results in rats that he had three different laboratory technicians repeat the tests.

"I literally did not believe it for six months," said Tuttle, whose findings were published yesterday in *Hypertension*, a journal of the American Heart Association. The Food and Drug Administration approved tests of IL-2 in humans with high blood pressure last week, Tuttle said. That study will take place at the state University of New York's Health Science Centre in Syracuse.

Tuttle's team found that IL-2 reverses high blood pressure in adult rats and prevents further blood pressure increases in young rats with all stages of hypertension.

Furthermore, the beneficial action of IL-2 appears permanent. Almost one year after about 100 rats received a single injection of IL-2, the animals' blood pressures still have not risen, researchers said.

Tuttle stressed that his findings do not transfer automatically to humans, and the work must be repeated by other scientists.

If the hormone treatment works in humans the way it does in rats, Tuttle said, "IL-2 could become a major factor in the control of essential hypertension."

High blood pressure, which boosts the risk for stroke and heart attack, afflicts more than 60 million Americans, the heart Association estimates. About 90 per cent of cases have no known cause, and are called "essential" hypertension.

IL-2 is a natural hormone produced by cells of the thymus and spleen, two key elements of the body's immune system. It has been possible only recently to use genetic engineering to produce IL-2 in large enough amounts to be used as a drug.

Seaweed pads heal wounds

VERO BEACH, Florida, Jan 9, (AP): Long, slimy, brown strands of seaweed that have been refined into what looks like a soft, white cotton pad, are part of an experimental wound treatment being tested at a Florida hospital.

The seaweed "wrap" is being used at Indian River Memorial Hospital to treat infected and non-infected wounds, including bed sores, diabetic ulcers and trauma injuries. "When they told me seaweed, I had a vision they would wrap me in smelly seaweed," said Blanche Lay, recuperating at the hospital from ankle surgery to remove an abscess. "This pad really does ease the pain."

The seaweed product, known as "Seaweed", is manufactured by Dow B. Hickman Inc. of Texas and has been marketed in England since 1984. The white, cotton-like sheet is being tested at 12 medical centres around the country.

The hospital was chosen as the only test site in Florida, said enterostomal therapy nurse and patient-care co-ordinator Lisa Carothers. "And it's working wonders."

Seaweed is made of the salts of alginic acid, or alginates, which are carbohydrates occurring naturally in brown seaweeds as a component of the cell wall, researchers say.

In 1972, the Food and Drug Administration recognised alginates as safe food ingredients, and they are often used in soups and jellies.

Medically, ancient sailors reportedly used seaweed as a wound dressing. Alginates are also being used in dentistry as oral hemostats and as dental impression material.

Carothers said she first cleans a wound with saline solution, cuts the seaweed dressing to fit and applies it to the wound. Then she covers it with a non-adhesive tape.

Anti-imperial attacks expected

TOKYO, Jan 9, (Reuters): Japanese security officers said today they expected leftist extremists to launch more anti-imperial attacks before Emperor Akihito formally ascends to the throne in November.

Yesterday radicals fired homemade rockets at the home of Akihito's younger brother in Tokyo and at the former imperial palace in the ancient capital of Kyoto in western Japan.

The attacks came after ceremonies on Sunday marking the first anniversary of the death of Emperor Hirohito, Akihito's father, who died at the age of 87.

Police said they suspected one of three left-wing groups that want an end to Japan's imperial system.

A police security official said the extremists had set 1990 as the year for their "decisive battle" against the emperor.

"The rockets are a signal that the extremists are vowed to launch an offensive before the formal enthronement of Emperor Akihito," he said.

The largest of the three groups, the Chukaku-Ha (central core faction), said in one of its publications last August that it would launch an offensive in 1990 to destroy Japan's imperial system.

"Our fight in the 1990 offensive against the emperor will evoke a significant reaction... (and) will destroy the emperor system, the last vehicle of class rule caused by Japanese imperialism," it said.

Chukaku-Ha, which police estimate has at least 5,000 members, said this year's enthronement

ceremonies were aimed at "defying" Akihito and making him ruler of Japan.

Yesterday's rocket attacks came on the day Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu named a government committee to prepare for Akihito's formal accession.

Four rockets were shot from the boot of a parked car at the residence of his younger brother, Prince Hitachi, in Tokyo.

One flew over an elevated highway and landed on the roof of the prince's home while another fell in the yard. Neither caused damage, police said.

The four rockets aimed at the Kyoto Palace were fired from rocket launchers set on the ground in a nearby graveyard and only one landed in the palace grounds, they said.



Investigators remove a covered car from which several rockets were fired into the residence of Prince Hitachi in Tokyo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hun Sen flees as Khmers attack

BANGKOK, Jan 9, (AP): Khmer Rouge guerrillas claimed today that they sent Cambodia's president and premier fleeing to Vietnam with a grenade attack on the capital in which soldiers and policemen were killed.

The reported attack Saturday would be the most serious in Phnom Penh, which has been largely spared in an 11-year-old guerrilla war against the Vietnamese-installed government. However, it could not be verified and some previous Khmer Rouge claims have proved exaggerated.

The government SPK news agency claimed the weekend was peaceful in the Cambodian capital.

However, Khmer Rouge army radio said that after the rebel attack on Phnom Penh, Vietnam immediately sent Prime Minister Hun Sen and President Heng Samrin and other leaders to Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

The broadcast monitored in Bangkok said the insecurity prevented Hun Sen from meeting in Phnom Penh with Michael Costello, Australia's deputy foreign secretary. Instead, it said, Hun Sen went from Ho Chi Minh City to Cambodia's eastern Svay Rieng province, bordering Vietnam, to meet with the envoy.

Costello told reporters upon arriving in Bangkok today that the meeting was arranged for Svay Rieng "well before" the Khmer Rouge attack was alleged to have taken place. He could not confirm the Phnom Penh attacks.

Allied neo-communist forces led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today that resistance agents had waged a series of grenade attacks last month, saying one grenade a day was exploded in the capital between Dec 5 and 10.

Their statement said 15 Vietnamese civilians, one Vietnamese "expert" and two Cambodian policemen were wounded in attacks near Premier Hun Sen's house on Dec 7, and the royal palace and the Defence Ministry on unspecified dates.

SPK, monitored in Bangkok today, did not mention any attacks but stressed that Sunday's national day celebrations took place in "total security." It said Saturday and yesterday also were peaceful.

National Day marks the anniversary of the 1979 downfall of the Khmer Rouge, which was driven out by invading Vietnamese troops after a 3 and 1/2-year reign in which hundreds of thousands died.

SPK said yesterday that Hun Sen had agreed with Australia's proposal for a UN role in an interim administration in Cambodia before a general election — but only if the UN seat held by the guerrilla coalition is first vacated.

The Khmer Rouge fields about 30,000 fighters and is the largest of three guerrilla groups in a resistance coalition.

Fears of a possible return to power of the Khmer Rouge have increased as they have made major battlefield advances since Vietnam in September made what it called the withdrawal of its last troops from Cambodia.

The Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas would keep fighting and attacking the capital until an international authority verifies Vietnam's withdrawal and a coalition government including the Heng Samrin government and the three guerrilla groups is formed.

The five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council will meet in Paris next week to seek ways of ending fighting in Cambodia, a French official said today.

China to lift martial law

To regain foreign trust

BEIJING, Jan 9, (AP): Chinese leaders prepared today to declare an end to the seven-month-old martial law in Tiananmen Square and possibly elsewhere in the capital in a gesture aimed at regaining foreign confidence, sources said.

The action, expected at midnight (1600 GMT) would be mainly symbolic because troops already have been withdrawn from city streets. It would not indicate greater freedom of dissent, because most activities banned under martial law, such as anti-government demonstrations and speeches, are illegal under other laws.

However, communist authorities hope it will reassure foreign governments and the World Bank that stability has been restored and that soft loans, frozen in June, should be resumed. They also hope it will reassure foreign tourists, few of whom have come since martial law was imposed.

The expected action may be directed in particular at the United States. It would enable US President George Bush to tell critics that his softening of sanctions against China has borne fruit. A Western diplomat in Hong Kong linked it to a controversial December visit to Beijing by Brent Scowcroft, US national security adviser.

When Premier Li Peng announced martial law in central Beijing last May 20 for the first time in the 40-year history of the People's republic, he said it was necessary to stem mass pro-democracy protests led by students.

Martial law forbids marches, strikes, class boycotts, public speeches, distributing pamphlets, spreading rumours and other "destructive activity." It also gives soldiers and police authority to take any measures necessary to maintain order.

However, a law passed in November outlaws all but pro-government demonstrations and authorises security forces to stop illegal protests. In addition, the constitution prohibits "disruption of the socialist system," giving the government broad authority to curb any dissent.

Chinese sources said the government cancelled plans to lift martial law in December after the popular uprising in Romania ousted hard-line communist leader Nicolae Ceausescu. Students at several Beijing campuses put up illegal posters ridiculing Ceausescu and Chinese leaders, and tried to demonstrate on campus.

Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev began a three-day visit to Beijing today amid signs of an apparent strain in Soviet-Chinese relations prompted by the rapid speed of change in Eastern Europe.

Rogachev, who arrived in advance of a United Nations Security Council meeting in Paris on Cambodia, told reporters at Beijing airport that he hoped to hold "fruitful and friendly" discussions during a three-day stay. China has freed a political activist, Gao Xing, arrested in June for playing a leading role in the pro-democracy demonstrations which were eventually crushed by the army, a friend of the activist said.

N. Korea invited to watch exercise

SEOUL, Jan 9, (AP): The United States and South Korea have invited the Soviet Union and North Korea to observe military training exercises in the South, a Seoul newspaper said today.

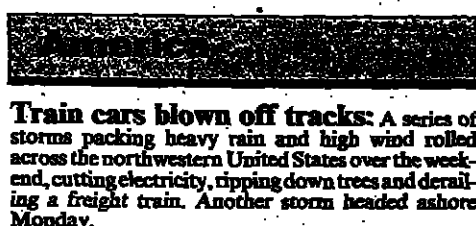
The JoongAng Daily news said the two communist allies were invited to observe annual "Team Spirit" exercises by the United States and South Korea. The newspaper said the invitation was extended last Friday in Beijing when US officials met with officials from the North Korean embassy.

North Korea has been invited to observe past exercises, but has never accepted. The Soviet Union never has been invited. Last year, Moscow exchanged offices for trade and limited consular functions with Seoul.

The newspaper, quoting unnamed government officials, said the Soviets were invited in hopes they would encourage North Korea to give up its isolationist policy and help ease tensions on the Korean peninsula.

The peninsula was divided into the Communist North and capitalist South in 1945 and despite efforts at dialogue, the two sides remain enemies.

South Korean scientists will test the nation's first rocket on the ground in April as a first step toward launching satellites into orbit, a report said today.



Train cars blown off tracks: A series of storms packing heavy rain and high wind rolled across the northwestern United States over the weekend, cutting electricity, ripping down trees and derailed a freight train. Another storm headed ashore Monday.

Two deaths in Oregon were blamed on the storm. Winds reached 92 miles-per-hour (148 km) per hour at Rattlesnake Ridge on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in south-central Washington, said National Weather Service meteorologist Darrell Lewis.

In Wyoming, high winds knocked 35 railroad flatcars off the tracks between Cheyenne and Laramie on Sunday, Union Pacific Railroad spokesman John Bromley said Monday. Only one of the cars carried any cargo, he said. (AP)

Penthouse suit killed: The US Supreme Court on Monday killed Penthouse magazine publisher Robert Guccione's \$400-million lawsuit against the federal government in connection with the FBI's Abecam investigation.

The court, without comment, let stand rulings that dismissed Guccione's suit.

In Abecam, a highly publicised "Sting" operation in the late 1970s, FBI agents posed as representatives of phony Arab Sheiks looking for investment opportunities.

A key figure in the operation was Melvin Weinberg, a con man turned FBI informant and mid-level agent. (AP)

Elvis faithful mark birthday: Members of about 40 Elvis Presley fan clubs gathered on the lawn of the singer's former residence Monday to eat pink and white cake and sing happy birthday to their hero, dead now for 12 years.

Presley, who died of heart disease at the white-columb residence called Graceland on Aug. 16, 1977, would have been 55.

Graceland draws more than 650,000 tourists and fans a year, and many of the Elvis faithful visit each year in January or August, with the largest crowds by far in the summer.

Billy Anderson, fan club liaison for the Graceland division of Elvis Presley Enterprises, said about 1,500 fans representing 40 clubs from around the United States and abroad came to Memphis to mark this year's birthday. A banquet Monday night with tickets for 500 fans was sold out, she said. (AP)

World's oldest twins ill: Any celebration marking the 106th birthday of the world's oldest living twins will be subdued Saturday because both are ill. One twin, Mildred, died last week.

Altogether Mildred and her twin sister, Ethel, born Jan. 23, 1884, are at Mountain Vista health park, where for three years has held rousing birthday parties for the women.

Earlier parties attracted political bigwigs, friends and many of the 192 direct descendants of the identical twins.

"There'll not be a big celebration because of their medical condition," nursing home administrator Kathy McDonald said last week. "Let's face it, this is a miracle almost — at 106 their condition has been better than you can expect."

The sisters' longevity is documented in the 1990 Guinness Book of World Records, which says the chance of identical twins both reaching the age of 100 is said to be one in 50 million. One set of twins, Eli and John Phipps, born in 1893, both reached the age of 108, Guinness says. (AP)

Powerful woman in Hollywood quits: Dawn Steel, one of the most powerful women in Hollywood, resigned on Monday as president of Columbia Pictures, clearing the way for "Batman" producers Jon Peters and Peter Guber to take over the Jacobs-owned studio.

Columbia, bought by Sony Corp. for \$3.4 billion brought Peters, a former hairdresser and close friend of singer Barbra Streisand, and Guber from Warner Brothers studio in a series of deals estimated by analysts to have cost Columbia between \$300 million and \$600 million. (Reuters)

Sailor trial postponed: The murder trial of a sailor who survived the attack on the USS Stark was postponed Monday pending a psychiatric evaluation ordered after a weekend suicide attempt, the trial judge said.

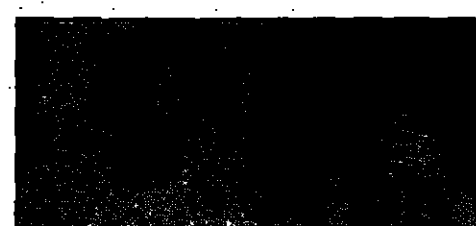
Circuit Judge Michael Weatherly said medical doctors told him that Walter Thomas Taylor, 21, would be physically able to go on trial on Wednesday. But the judge also said the physicians had told him that they couldn't determine Taylor's mental condition, so the evaluation was ordered.

Taylor, charged with first-degree murder in the August 1987 bludgeoning deaths of a woman and her 3-year-old daughter, was being held under guard Monday at University Medical Centre, listed in stable condition. (AP)

Show helps capture fugitive: A Los Angeles street gang member wanted on six counts of attempted murder was captured Monday after he was profiled on Fox Television's "America's Most Wanted" programme.

Police said tips received after last month's broadcast led them to Darryl Bailey, 17, who was found hiding in the attic of a suburban St. Louis home. Bailey, a member of the Six Deuce Brims set of the bloods street gang, was arrested by seven members of the fugitive apprehension strike team in suburban Velda Village, police said.

"America's Most Wanted" was instrumental in the apprehension of Darryl Bailey, said detective Sgt. Dwight Wideman of the strike team. "Without their profile, we would not have known that Bailey was a fugitive." (UPI)



Tragic ride: A pleasure boat carrying 49 people capsized and sank Monday in Nelson Bay, killing five children, four of them trapped in the vessel's lifeboats. Emergency workers, Pleasure Craft and police rescued 44 survivors from the 36-foot fishing cruiser, the Ngluka, which went down in 10 feet (3 m) of water at 6.15 pm off Snapper Island in Nelson Bay, 137 miles (220 km) north of Sydney.

One survivor, Pancho Deminaur, said no one aboard had any warning that the boat was about to go down.

"We were on the top deck, my wife and son, and then suddenly we were in the water," Deminaur said.

About 20 fishing and Pleasure Craft raced to the capsized Ngluka and hauled struggling survivors into their boats.

Picture shows Deminaur leading other survivors ashore. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chiang to head Taiwan's mission: Chiang Hsiao-Wu, a son of the late Nationalist Chinese president Chiang Kai-shek, was appointed Tuesday to head Taiwan's unofficial diplomatic mission in Japan, the Foreign Ministry announced.

Chiang is replacing Ma Chi-Chuang, 77, as representative of the Association of East Asia Relations, the ministry reported.

At 45 years of age, Chiang will be the youngest Taiwan official ever to head the mission, established in 1972 after Japan switched its diplomatic recognition from the Nationalists to the rival Chinese communists in Beijing. (AP)

US journalist denied visa: A correspondent for the Miami Herald newspaper has been denied permission to return to live and work in China, the State Department said today.

In notifying Browning of the decision, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official did not cite a specific story or stories but accused him of "spreading rumours" and "distorting facts" in reporting about the demonstrations in China, the Herald reported Sunday. (AP)

South Korea considers: In a move intended to stimulate economic exchanges with North Korea, South Korea is considering supplying electricity to the communist North, a report said Tuesday.

Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, quoted government sources as saying South Korea was thinking of helping North Korea alleviate electricity shortages by restoring power lines between the two Koreas. (AP)

Brazil gold miners removed: An operation to remove thousands of gold diggers from the Amazon basin of Brazil's Yanomami Indian tribe began on Monday despite protests and fears that defiant prospectors would not leave peacefully.

The Yanomami are the biggest forest tribe left in the Amazon basin but the 7,000 who live in the Brazilian state of Roraima are dying quickly from malaria and other diseases brought there by 40,000 prospectors.

The \$5.4 million operation to save the tribe began last week with emergency medical aid, and on Monday hundreds of police agents descended on the state capital, Boa Vista, to begin the prospectors' removal.

There were no reports of violence on the first day but police in Boa Vista said they anticipated resistance and violence from some prospectors. (Reuters)

Rebels kill 2 policemen: Rebels suspected to be Shining Path guerrillas shot and killed two policemen Monday as they were directing traffic in a Lima suburb, police reported.

The two officers, Jose Zuniga and Jose Taita, died shortly after the attack in a local hospital. Authorities said they were directing traffic at an intersection in the suburb of San Martin de Porras 2 miles (4 km) west of downtown Lima.

Police said the attackers fled on foot. (AP)

Vietnamese returnees are not subjected to harassment

HAIPHONG, Vietnam, Jan 9, (Reuters): Two British politicians said yesterday there was no sign that 51 Vietnamese boat people forcibly repatriated to Vietnam from Hong Kong last month had been subjected to official pressure since their return.

Socialist peer Lord Ennals and conservative former Home Office (Interior Ministry) minister Timothy Raison told reporters that returned families they had visited said all they needed was money.

"It is absolutely a straightforward economic story. There was no question of any kind of political pressure," Raison said of returnees they met in Haiphong, most of them fishermen. "The crucial element in their life is the lack of a boat."

The two politicians were sent to Vietnam to monitor the fate of the boat people after relief agencies and the United States raised an uproar about the forced repatriation of would-be refugees deemed to have fled for reasons that were not political.

After visiting 23 of the 46 returnees living in Haiphong, a port 112 km (70 miles) east of Hanoi, they said all seemed to have fled in search of a better life abroad.

Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese hit by chronic inflation and soaring unemployment under the country's communist government have fled in boats and by land through China in the hope of being resettled in the West.

The returnees in Haiphong said local officials last week gave each of them the equivalent in Vietnamese dong of \$25 promised by the British government.

But they said the money would not cover the cost of replacing homes and boats, confiscated when they went to Hong Kong.

"The Vietnamese new year is coming and we should be in our own homes," said Le Van Lich, one of the fishermen interviewed by Raison and Ennals at relatives' homes where they were staying.

In two houses they visited yesterday, families were living 10 to a room with beds on the floor. All said they had not found jobs since returning nearly a month ago to Haiphong.

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Klerk pledge for rapid change

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 9. (Reuters). Black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela expects to be freed from prison within a matter of weeks and President F.W. de Klerk has pledged to maintain a fast tempo of reform in South Africa.

Mandela's wife Winnie said he had asked her during a prison meeting yesterday to begin making preliminary arrangements for his release.

"This is the first time that I have accepted as a reality that he will be released this year," Winnie Mandela said after visiting the African National Congress (ANC) leader at his bungalow quarters in the Victor Verster Prison northeast of Cape Town.

"I don't think we are talking about months any longer," she told reporters.

Speculation has been rife for months that De Klerk would soon free Mandela whose liberty, frequently demanded by foreign governments, is seen by most black South African leaders as a precondition for talks on ending apartheid.

Until yesterday Mandela, 71, had dampened such speculation.

Asked whether her husband was excited, Winnie Mandela said: "He has no emotions left after 27 years in prison."

At a meeting yesterday in Pretoria with British centrist politician David Owen, De Klerk said he would push ahead with reforms aimed at preparing the ground for negotiations with black leaders on constitutional change.

"He said quite openly to me that he was in a hurry. He is going to move fast, he wants to keep the momentum going," Owen, head of the Social Democratic Party, said after the meeting.

Owen said the government would announce further reforms in early February when parliament reopens, including lifting or at least partially relaxing the three-year-old nationwide state of emergency.

"And then I think it is quite likely that Nelson Mandela will come out in late February or early March," Owen told the British Broadcasting Corporation in an interview.

Before talks can begin, the exiled ANC and its internal allies want De Klerk to free all political prisoners, lift restrictions on opposition organisations including the ANC, end emergency rule and remove security forces from black townships.

So far the government has made several gestures, including the October 15 release of Mandela's close colleague Walter Sisulu and another leading ANC figure, Cyril Ramaphosa, in 1985 of plotting to overthrow the white government.

In a landmark statement marking its 78th anniversary, the African National Congress yesterday acknowledged the South African government was taking steps to dismantle apartheid.

But the guerrilla-backed movement's Lusaka based external leadership restated it was still committed to armed struggle until an acceptable climate is created for peace talks.

S. Africa will grant visa to Jackson

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (AP). Jesse Jackson said he would soon travel to South Africa following an announcement yesterday by the government that it would grant him a long-delayed visa.

South African Foreign Minister P.W. Botha announced yesterday that the government has told Jackson he "will be welcome to come to South Africa and the necessary visa will be issued to him to travel to South Africa at a mutually convenient time."

Jackson, a former presidential candidate and civil rights leader, said the government's decision and the recent release of several black prisoners by the United African National Congress demonstrates that "some walls have come down."

"I've been trying to return for ten years... and since President (F.W.) De Klerk met with Nelson Mandela obviously some walls have come down," said Jackson, comparing the events in South Africa to the recent events in Eastern Europe.

"The walls must come down in South Africa as they have come down in Europe so people can get beyond the violence of separation to the constructing of a society where black and white people can live together without fear and mistrust," Jackson added in a telephone interview.

US assails Angolans, Soviets

WASHINGTON, Jan 9. (AP). The State Department expressed concern yesterday over a military offensive launched by several thousand Angolan troops against US-backed rebels, and it also criticised the support role played by Soviet advisers.

Meanwhile, an Angola peace conference scheduled to start tomorrow, has been postponed indefinitely, US officials said. The presidents of eight African nations had been scheduled to go to the Angolan capital of Luanda for the conference.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler called on Angola's MPLA government and its Soviet allies to stop the offensive immediately and concentrate instead on the peace process.

"We are very concerned about the dangerous escalation of offensive military action by the MPLA against UNITA-controlled territory in southeastern Angola," she said.

"That this offensive action is receiving close support from the substantial number of Soviet military advisers at the front line is increasing our concern."

Tutwiler tempered her criticism of the Angolans by noting that President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos has indicated interest in discussing seriously some key issues that have had the civil war going in that country for 14 years.

She urged the MPLA government to take its proposals to Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko, who has led a peace mediation effort.

President Mobutu has postponed indefinitely an eight-nation summit of African leaders aimed at ending Angola's 15-year-old civil war, a news agency reported.

According to US officials, following several weeks of logistical preparations, MPLA forces launched an attack on Dec 23 against UNITA-controlled areas along the Kuzumbia river, between Cuito Cuanavale and Mavinga in southeastern Angola.



Workers fight and die

SIX men were killed and at least 31 injured yesterday in a battle between hundreds of striking and non-striking rail workers at a train station near Johannesburg, police headquarters said.

It was by far the worst incident of violence during a 10-week strike by black workers against the state transport company. About 10 people have been killed in previous strike-related incidents and several dozen railway cars have been destroyed in arson attacks. Picture shows police officers carry the body of a black man. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lithuanians condemned

Azeris pledge easy travel

MOSCOW, Jan 9. (Reuters). A senior politburo member has denounced Lithuania's Communist Party shortly before a planned visit to the republic by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, casting doubt on whether wounds caused by a split in party ranks can be healed.

Vladimir Medvedev, the party's ideology chief, told workers at the Zhalgiris machine-tool plant that last month's decision by the Lithuanian party to break ranks with the Moscow party threatened Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme.

"It is a blow to the inter-ethnic unity of the Soviet Communist party, to the construction of a reformed federation, a blow to all of perestroika," he said in remarks reported by Tass news agency.

The creation of an independent Lithuanian Communist Party, he said, "can only be viewed as an expression of non-confidence in the Soviet Communist party."

Medvedev said senior leaders had previously issued similar condemnations of the Lithuanian move.

But his outburst virtually on the eve of Gorbachev's fact-finding visit was a surprise in view of conciliatory statements from the Kremlin leadership in recent days.

It was unclear when Gorbachev would embark on his trip, which according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman would begin as previously announced tomorrow.

But Lithuanian journalists said the Soviet president would arrive on Thursday.

Gorbachev and other leaders were mandated to make a fact-finding visit

to Lithuania by a plenary meeting last month of the party central committee.

That meeting failed to take a decision on whether to recognise the independent party formed after delegates to a special Congress voted five to one in favour of its creation.

The move, approved in conjunction with a programme to create an economically and politically "sovereign" Lithuania, won overwhelming public support.

Authorities in Soviet Azerbaijan, seeking to end 10 days of rioting along the Soviet-Iranian border, pledged today to ease travel across the frontier.

In the Soviet Union's other current flashpoint, Lithuanians demanding independence, planned mass rallies tomorrow and Thursday alongside a visit by Gorbachev.

In Azerbaijan, leaders of the southern republic agreed to allow freer movement for ethnic Azeris on either side of the border.

Dzhavahir, Communist Party leader of Nakhichevan, told Tass news agency that local authorities asked the Soviet Foreign Ministry to raise the issue of easier contacts in talks with Iranian officials.

Iran's Irna news agency, monitoring the situation, reported that Tehran officials arrived in the Azerbaijani capital Baku today to discuss relaxing border controls.

They came from Moscow where Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Vaezi and his Soviet counterpart Alexander Bessmertnykh signed an agreement on the establishment of Iranian and Soviet tourist offices in each other's country, Irna said.

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Romanian revolution in peril: dissident

Travel ban lifted; passport office besieged

CLUJ, Romania, Jan 9. (Reuters). Top Romanian dissident Poina Cornea warned yesterday the revolution was in danger of being taken over by former communists who took power after the overthrow of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

She called on workers to take to the streets.

"Now is the time to demonstrate. If the workers are strong then they can keep the revolution going," said the frail dissident in an interview at her home in Cluj, in northwest Romania.

Cornea was imprisoned in 1987 for writing an open letter criticising Ceausescu's policy of destroying thousands of villages and moving peasants to agro-industrial complexes.

She was placed under house arrest and said she was beaten by Ceausescu's Securitate secret police on three occasions.

The 60-year-old former professor of French said the heads of the Securitate were still walking the streets of Cluj.

"They are almost free men. Their trials keep being delayed and delayed and people tell me they have seen them walking the streets," she said.

Cornea, a tiny grey-haired woman clearly exhausted by a series of hunger strikes, was suffering from a sore throat and conducted the interview in a strained whisper.

She said she was worried Romanian society was once again being paralysed by a spreading climate of fear under the leadership of the National Salvation Front (NSF) which took power after the downfall of Ceausescu.

She was also concerned that elections the NSF scheduled for April gave emerging political parties too little time to prepare and put them at a disadvantage to the Front which has many reformed communists among its membership.

"The NSF have all the advantages, they have been in the Communist Party for 40 years so they know how to take power and they have the technical means to publicise their message — television is at their command," she said.

"In contrast the other parties are totally lacking in experience. They don't have the technical opportunities so they are on a level footing."

Emerging parties were not being given access to the national media, she said, adding that a recent interview she gave on Romanian television in which she attacked the NSF had been transmitted without sound so no one could hear her criticism.

Meanwhile, more than 1,000 travel-hungry Romanians besieged Bucharest's lone passport office today after the country's provisional rulers lifted all travel restrictions enforced during years of communist repression.

"We have accepted more than 1,000 applications this morning and there are at least another 200 waiting," Lieutenant-Colonel Dumitru David, deputy chief of the office, told Reuters.

The National Salvation Front, announced the end of travel restrictions in a decree on Monday.

In the central provincial capital of Sibiu, meanwhile, the "terrorist" trials of Ceausescu loyalists went into a second day after a police major received a nine-year prison term yesterday for attempted murder at the height of the revolution.

The interim Romanian government is ready to send the nation's trucks and trains to other European cities to collect donations of food, so great is the need for extra supplies, a United Nations disaster relief official said today.

Sergio Piazzi said Romania, stricken by years of deprivation, would need emergency food aid for at least the next three months to replace exhausted stocks.

In a former Communist Party neighbourhood headquarters near the centre of Bucharest, some proud old men gathered each day to talk about treason.

That crime and its punishment is a topic these men understand, perhaps better than anyone else in Romania.

"I was accused of high treason, of plotting to take up arms against the communist order," said 69-year-old Vasile Boaru.

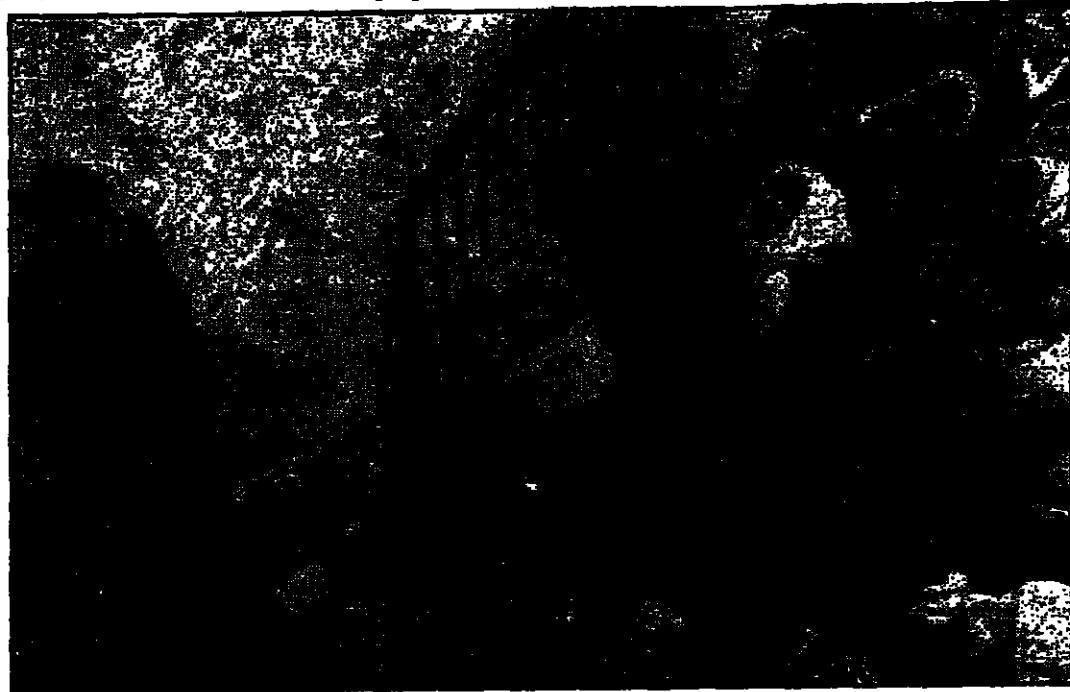
"Were you guilty?" asked a reporter.

"Of course," laughed Boaru triumphantly.

"The people are unhappy, every day workers come to see me and say 'why did you carry out the revolution, can't you see that the same old people are still in power?'" she said.

"People are beginning to control the situation with fear and threat." She said workers had told her they were receiving indirect threats telling them to keep quiet and not to make trouble.

"There have been anonymous threats," she said. "No one knows where they are coming from but they are beginning to frighten the people."



Poor Romanians queuing outside a church waiting for some free food and gifts from the priest in downtown Bucharest.



Supporter of Ceausescu in their cell after arrest for terrorist activities in Romania. (Reuters wirephoto)

Europe

5 die in London highway crash: Five people died late Monday night in a highway pileup involving 36 cars, five trucks, a bus and a van in the London suburb of Uxbridge, police reported.

Two other people were reported seriously hurt while many others suffered less serious injuries, police said.

Firemen fought to free at least one person trapped in a vehicle.

Chief Inspector Laurie Gray of Thames valley police said thick fog played a role in the multiple-vehicle pile-up. (AP)

Morning Star on the wane: Britain's communist Morning Star newspaper, unwaveringly dedicated to the class struggle, says it will fight to survive despite the crumbling of old-style East bloc regimes and the slashing of its market in the Soviet Union.

With a circulation of around 20,000, Britain's only Communist daily was hit hard by news last month that Moscow was cutting its daily order from 12,000 to 6,000 copies. (Reuters)

First communist woman leader: The Communist Party of Great Britain will almost certainly elect its first woman leader this week. It was reported in London Tuesday.

Nina Temple, a 33-year-old mother of two, is considered the most likely candidate to succeed Gordon McLennan, who retired as the party's secretary general last November. (Kuna)

Pilot flies under Eiffel Tower: A masked man flew an ultra-light plane around the lighted landmarks of Paris, then under the Eiffel Tower before landing and escaping, police said Monday.

Police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two officers spotted the plane flying low near the Arc de Triomphe and other monuments late Sunday night. Any unauthorised flights over Paris are illegal. (AP)

Prague: Soviets troops should quit: The Soviet Union's estimated 80,000 troops in Czechoslovakia, deployed after the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion, should pull out by the end of this year, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"I suggest that the Soviet troops should withdraw from Czechoslovakia by the end of 1990," spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky was quoted by the state news agency CTK as telling journalists.

The spokesman was not immediately available to confirm the comment. (AP)

Czech ministers quit: Two leading Communist Party members in Czechoslovakia's "national consensus government" have resigned from the party, leaving it in a clear minority on the cabinet.

Václav Komarek, the government's economic overlord and first deputy prime minister, had just handed in his resignation, Communist Party spokesman Josef Hora told journalists on Monday. (Reuters)

Director fired for coverage: The information minister Monday warned local news media in Maputo, Mozambique to avoid anti-communist reporting and said the director of the largest newspaper had been fired because of the paper's coverage of political change in Eastern Europe.

Josef Catorze, director of the daily Noticias, was fired Saturday and replaced by the newspaper's chief news editor, Benjamin Paduaco. (AP)

Comoros protest turns to riot: Rioting broke out in the capital of the Comoros Islands after police fired live bullets over the heads of demonstrators calling for the country's swift return to democracy.

The paramilitary gendarmerie also used tear gas to break up the crowd of several hundred people outside Moroni's main mosque on Monday in the protests organised by opposition parties.

The demonstrators dispersed into small groups which set fire to other parts of the town, pillaging government buildings and setting fire to about 10 government vehicles. (Reuters)

Pair kidnapped at Angolan border: A West German man and his South African girlfriend were kidnapped and taken at gunpoint across the border into Angola while en route on Christmas Eve, police and witnesses said Monday.

Axel Pohl, 43, a West German citizen who has lived in the South African-controlled territory of Namibia for 15 years, disappeared into Angola in the area controlled by the US-backed National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), friends said.

Ex-Ugandan officials charged: Uganda's former army chief of staff, brigadier Smith Opon Akak, and two other senior officers in the government of ex-president Milton Obote were charged with treason Monday.

Akak, 45, was arraigned before chief magistrate Hensley Okalebo along with Maj. John William Othwal and Ahmed Ogen, former head of Obote's para-military police force. All three were charged with waging war against Uganda in 1987. (AP)

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Rough ride ahead for reds

WEST BERLIN, Jan 9. (AP). East Germany's embattled communists said today a rough election campaign may be ahead, adding they want to limit the number of "punches below the belt" before the balloting in May.

The communists, plagued by a wave of resignations, have launched a virtual counter-offensive to regain the initiative before the vote on May 6.

The head of West Germany's extreme rightist Republicans said East German members of his party planned to run in the May elections.

Republican Party chief Franz Schoenhuber, a former Nazi Waffen SS soldier, told a news conference in West Berlin he thought his party's East German members could receive 10 per cent of the vote.

However, the leadership in East Berlin has vowed to thwart any attempts by the Republicans or other right-wing extremists to gain a foothold in East Germany.

The Republicans, who chalked up a string of local election victories last year in West Germany and West Berlin, hope to reach the federal Parliament in Bonn in nationwide balloting late this year.

Still in control of the nation's media, key meeting places and supplies of such essentials as paper, the communists have been accused of unfairly exploiting their power.

The Communist Party newspaper Berliner Zeitung reminded its readers that the various opposition groups are running for the first time and claimed many candidates feel the need to virtually shove opponents out of the way.

"All this leads to the fear that it could get especially rough in the coming weeks," the Berliner Zeitung said in reference to the just-starting elections campaign.

The newspaper's commentary said, however, that such rough-going could be kept in check if all sides "reach a fair agreement specifying campaign conduct."

Experience shows that punches below the belt can't really be avoided through such an agreement, but they can be kept to a tolerable amount," the Berliner Zeitung continued.

The communists in effect are fighting for their political survival in East Germany, which is plagued by shortages of consumer goods and low worker morale.

More than 1,000 East Germans still resettle in West Germany each day, joining the 340,000 who reached the West last year alone.

East German communists also reacted angrily to West German television plans to beam election information programmes into East Germany.

The official party daily Neues Deutschland said that unlike the opposition parties, the communists will probably be shunned by the West German "news media Armada."

More than 150,000 people demonstrated last night in nine cities to keep up pressure against the communists.

"Down with the sed," protesters in Leipzig chanted, using the initials of the country's embattled Communist Party. An estimated 100,000 demonstrators there also called for the ouster of Gregor Gysi, who took over as party chief just one month ago.

In Karl-Marx-Stadt, about 50,000 people rallied for independent trade unions and the right to strike, as well as against the Communist Party.

The official news agency ADN also reported demonstrations in at least seven other cities.

In the opposition-government talks, pro-democracy groups yesterday threatened to pull out of negotiations on the nation's future if the government could not prove its pledge that the internal security network, had been dismantled and was being disbanded.

The government was also accused yesterday by Markus Meckel, of the opposition social democrats, of sowing "hysteria" with daily warnings about an alleged "burst of Neo-Nazi activity."

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Kaifu's Euro-visit aimed at boosting ties, extending aid to East bloc

BONN, Jan 9. (UPI). Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu met with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today at the start of a tour of Europe aimed at cementing Japan's ties with its Western allies and beefing up aid to Eastern Europe.

Kaifu, 59, who is accompanied by his wife Sachiko and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, is the first Japanese leader to bridge both sides of the crumbling iron curtain in a single journey.

After his arrival in the West German capital last night, Kaifu was officially welcomed with full military honours by Kohl today.

The two leaders then started talks expected to focus on bilateral relations as well as the dramatic changes that have swept over Eastern Europe in recent months.

Kaifu is due to travel to West Berlin today, where he is expected to announce a beefed-up aid package to Hungary and Poland.

Kaifu will inspect the recently-opened Berlin Wall but is not scheduled to visit East Germany. The East German News Agency ADN said earlier Kaifu had discussed conversations with East Germany during a telephone conversation with his East German counterpart Hans Modrow last week.

The Japanese prime minister will return to Bonn tonight before flying tomorrow to Brussels, where he is due to meet leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

Prior to his departure from Tokyo yesterday, Kaifu told members of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party that Japan's active co-operation in the establishment of a new international order will contribute to peace and stability world-wide.

His 11-day swing through Western and Eastern Europe, capped by visits to Poland and

Hungary, will also include visits to France, Britain, Italy and the Vatican.

A senior Foreign Ministry official in Tokyo said earlier the trip was aimed at demonstrating that Japan is coming of age as a political as well as an economic power.

"Up until now Japan has been perceived as playing the role of an economic giant. There is a new awareness on the part of Japan that the changes in Europe are so important that Japan should participate in the process actively and by doing so, strengthen its political role in the world," the official said.

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مكتبة الأمل



A Muslim veiled woman signs her name under the pictures of two Swiss hostages in Lebanon in the southern port city of Sidon in a show of solidarity with the families of the two hostages, that arrived in Beirut three days ago and left with no information about their fate. (Reuters wirephoto)

Vatican aims to encourage dialogue

41 envoys back Hirawi

BEIRUT, Jan 9, (Agencies): Forty-one Arab and foreign diplomats attended a New Year meeting yesterday with President Elias Hrawi, reflecting international backing for Lebanon's new administration.

Hrawi received the diplomats at his temporary headquarters in Syrian-policed West Beirut.

He has been unable to move to the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, held by defiant General Michel Aoun and used by him as his headquarters.

"Your presence here is a genuine and true expression against all attempts aiming to undermine the legitimate authority, the loss of Lebanon and its cultural role," Hrawi told the diplomats, who wished the President a happy New Year.

Hrawi has been locked in a power struggle with Aoun, who is holding out in the Christian enclave. The general refuses to recognise Hrawi, dismissing him as a Syrian puppet.

Hrawi was elected on Nov 24 in accordance with an internationally-supported peace pact drafted by the Arab League.

The Vatican announced yesterday that its new nuncio (ambassador) to Lebanon has presented his credentials to Hrawi and said the ambassador's work "will encourage a sincere and loyal dialogue between all the parties."

Chief Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro Valls said the new apostolic nuncio, Spanish Monsignor Pablo Puente, presented his credentials to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry shortly after his arrival in September, because at that time Lebanon had no president.

Then, last Saturday, he presented his credentials to President Hrawi, thus enabling him to carry out his full duties, Navarro said.

"In a particularly delicate period for Lebanon, the nuncio's work will thus encourage a sincere and loyal dialogue between all the parties, bearing in mind above all those who find themselves in a position of greater weakness and who fear for their own future and that of the country," the Vatican spokesman said.

Christian army units and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen clashed along Beirut's Green Line today, and police said alarming violations of a civil war truce in the city have killed four people and wounded 12 in four days.

And in East Lebanon's Bekaa valley, police said two villages were wounded when Israel's allied militia, the South Lebanon Army, poured artillery fire on bases of Syrian-backed Palestinian and leftist Lebanese fighters in the villages of Sultan Yacoub, Luci and Kamed El Louz.

The area has long been a launching pad for commando raids into Israel's self-designated "security zone" in south Lebanon. The 2,500-strong, predominantly Christian SLA and an estimated 1,500 Israeli



Rescue workers carry a body of a Shiite fighter on a stretcher and prepare to put it in an ambulance in the village of Sarba. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shiite militias battle ignoring truce appeal

BEIRUT, Jan 9, (Reuters): Rival Shiite militias armed with rocket-propelled grenades and machineguns battled for the 18th day in south Lebanon today, in continued defiance of ceasefire appeals.

The roar of battle resumed after a seven-hour ceasefire yesterday to let Red Cross workers and villagers retrieve 17 rotting corpses from the battleground.

Guns of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Amal have killed at least 76 people and wounded 280 since battles began, security sources said.

They are vying for leadership of Lebanon's largest community 1.3 million Shiites. Both have ignored repeated truce appeals from their Iranian and Syrian backers.

Security sources said they traded rocket-propelled grenades today in the Iqlim Al Tufah area, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut. The villages of Sarba and Jarjous were raked with machinegun fire.

Both sides were reported reinforcing their positions with men, weapons and ammunition to continue the struggle.

Witnesses said shellcases and spent cartridges littered the ground at the Amal-controlled village of Sabra, its streets blocked by rubble and its houses pockmarked by rockets and artillery shells.

Scores of civilians fled Sabra yesterday during the ceasefire negotiated by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

To the east, the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia controlling Israel's buffer zone in South Lebanon wounded two people and damaged seven houses in attacks early today on three villages in the Bekaa valley.

Security sources said Israeli officers visited SLA positions overlooking Iqlim Al Tufah today to observe the Shiite fighting for the first time since battles began on December 23.

troops jointly patrol the enclave along the southern border.

Israel set up the buffer in 1985 to guard against cross-border raids after it withdrew the bulk of its occupation army, ending a three-year invasion of Lebanon.

Police said there were no casualties in the 10-minute clash along the capital's demarcation line during which the army troops and militiamen exchanged rocket-propelled grenades and sniper fire.

Arabs study E. European upheaval

TUNIS, Jan 9, (UPI): The permanent representatives of the Arab League met today to discuss how changes under way in Eastern Europe might affect the Middle East, as the PLO expressed fears the European turmoil could help Israel slow down the peace process, officials said.

"We are worried that the opening up under way in Eastern Europe may profit Israel, that it is going to profit from the changes to intervene and install itself" there, said Salah Khalaf, the No. 2 man to Yasser Arafat in the mainstream PLO, in an interview with United Press International.

Khalaf was explaining why the PLO had asked for the meeting of ambassadors to the 21-member Arab League that began behind closed doors in Tunis today "to examine the evolution of the most recent developments in Eastern Europe."

Khalaf, also known by his nom de guerre Abu Iyad, said the PLO of course "welcomed very well the changes in favour of democracy" in Eastern Europe.

"If there also was a little more democracy in the Arab world it would help the Palestinian cause much more," he added.

But Khalaf said he was concerned lest the United States was making improved relations with the Jewish state a condition for American assistance with curing the economic ills of their increasingly independent Eastern European states.

"When Poland asked for economic aid the United States insisted that Warsaw revise its position with regard to Israel," Khalaf contended.

Naccache, a Lebanese Muslim who is supported by Iran's President and Foreign Minister, has lost 39 pounds (27 kilograms) since he started his fast Sept 8. He now weighs just 105 pounds (48 kg) and has lost his immune defenses to disease, according to his lawyer, Jacques Verges.

"If tomorrow someone goes into his cell and sneezes," Verges said on television, Naccache "could very well die from it."

Naccache is refusing food but is drinking liquids. He is fed intravenously from time to time by doctors at the Fresne prison outside Paris.

Czechs in Israel for talks on ties

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 9, (Reuters): Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry officials arrived in Israel today for talks on renewing diplomatic ties cut by Prague during the 1967 Middle East war after similar moves by Hungary and Poland.

Israeli officials said the Czechoslovak delegation, headed by Foreign Ministry director for Middle East affairs Vazlev Jizdny, would meet Foreign Minister Moshe Arens today.

The visit came as Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn was on the final day of a three-day stay, the highest-ranking

visit to Israel by an official of the Warsaw Pact states that broke relations in 1967.

Of the Soviet bloc states, only Romania maintained diplomatic ties during that period.

Horn said yesterday Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth would visit Israel in late February, less than six months after Hungary became the first East European country to restore relations.

Israel was also moving toward full ties with Poland, with Israel radio reporting today that Arens would go to Warsaw next

month to sign an agreement on resumption of relations.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry declined to confirm or deny the report, but Poland said yesterday it expected relations to be restored in late February.

East Germany has also expressed willingness to establish relations for the first time with Israel, including accepting a share of responsibility for Germany's Nazi past and paying reparations to Jewish Holocaust survivors.

Israel has yet to respond. Israel has worked hardest at restoring

ties with the Soviet Union, home to the largest groups of Jews outside the United States and Israel.

The two countries have exchanged consular delegations but there is still no official discussion on full ties.

However, while the East European visits to Israel were underway, Israeli Science Minister Ezer Weizman was in Moscow this week on the highest-level visit since the Soviet Union orchestrated the cut in diplomatic relations.

Gaza informer knifed to death

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Jan 9, (Agencies): A Palestinian woman was knifed to death in the occupied Gaza Strip, and slogans that appeared on walls today accused her of collaborating with Israel.

Also today, shops in the occupied territories were closed by a strike to mark the start of the 26th month of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

Also today, the army said schools for some 320,000 Arab children would open in the West Bank starting tomorrow. Gaza Strip elementary and secondary schools for about 180,000 students, will open on Sunday, officials said.

The schools had been closed for a holiday break, and the army resisted efforts by the United Nations and other groups to resume classes earlier to make up for time lost last year during army-mandated closures.

The army closed elementary schools and high schools in the West Bank for much of the 1988-89 school year, contending they were organising protests for the uprising.

Five universities and some technical schools have been closed since the start of the uprising on Dec 8, 1987.

The woman killed in the southern Gaza town of Rafah was identified as Zafra Abu Libda, 36.

Arab reports said masked Palestinian gunmen shot her late last night and stabbed her repeatedly. They said slogans today on walls in Rafah accused her of collaboration.

The army confirmed the death and said police were investigating. Abu Libda was the second Palestinian killed for suspected collaboration this year despite a leaflet distributed in the West Bank in late December calling for restraint.

The leaflet, attributed to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction, called for an end to killings without authorisation from the leadership.

Earlier warnings from the PLO-backed underground leadership of the uprising said suspected collaborators should be given an opportunity to repent and make amends before any killings were carried out.

Israel has jailed a soldier for saying on army radio it should leave the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, military sources said today.

Radio announcer Gil Komar was sentenced to 14 days in a military prison for breaching regulations that prohibit enlisted soldiers from expressing a political opinion in a public forum.

Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians, including an 11-year-old boy, yesterday in an occupied West Bank village, residents said.

Villagers in Beit Rima, north of Ramallah, said troops shot Abdel Kader Barghouti, 11, in the heart and Ali Atia Nimer Atia, 22, in the head. Both died soon after, and were buried quickly in the village, the residents said.

They said two other residents were wounded in the operation. It was also not clear whether the Palestinians had attacked the soldiers.

The army demolished a house in Gaza city yesterday and sealed another on suspicion the occupants had killed a suspected informer and wounded another, security sources and Palestinians said. It also sealed off five houses in the West Bank.

US criticises ban on travel

Israel-Egypt meeting in doubt

WASHINGTON, Jan 9, (Agencies): The United States yesterday deplored Israel's decision to restrict foreign travel by Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank and said a crucial ministerial meeting to advance an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue was in doubt.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler urged Israel to reverse its decision last week to bar Faisal Husseini, head of an Arab studies centre in Jerusalem, and other prominent Palestinians from travelling abroad.

"We're extremely concerned by these reports at a time when all parties should be working towards the beginning of an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue," Tutwiler said.

"This action sends the wrong signal to Palestinians who favour dialogue as an alternative to continued confrontation and violence," she added.

Secretary of State James Baker had hoped to edge towards what would be unprecedented direct talks between Israel and a Palestinian delegation by meeting his Israeli and Egyptian counterparts in Washington this month.

But Tutwiler indicated that the parties were still too far apart to be able to call that meeting, which was to discuss Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

"Obviously there is work to be done. It is absurd to have a meeting if the meeting produces nothing. You have to feel fairly confident that having a meeting is worthwhile, not just meeting for meeting's sake," Tutwiler said.

"We have never emphatically said there is going to be a meeting. There are certain assurances... that each side would like," she said.

The ministerial meeting was the final point in Baker's five-point peace plan, the ultimate

US unfit

BAGHDAD, Jan 9, (AP): A Palestinian leader said today that the United States is unfit as a peace broker in the Middle East because it consistently backs Israel.

Farouk Kadoumi, the foreign minister of the PLO, told the Associated Press that the US administration is not serious in its effort to bring about peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

goal of which is Palestinian elections in the territories.

Baker, who will meet Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington next week, hopes that giving Palestinians some say over their affairs through elections would take the edge off the two-year Palestinian uprising in the territories which has claimed over 800 lives.

But Israel insists on having a veto over members of the Palestinian delegation to the talks to minimise the influence of the PLO.

Several of those affected by the travel ban are seen as obvious candidates for inclusion in the Palestinian delegation. Husseini is described by many Israelis as the most senior PLO figure in the occupied territories.

The travel ban delivered to Hussein's East Jerusalem home by secret service officers on Thursday said Israel's security would be harmed if he travelled abroad. A month earlier military authorities barred Hussein, 49, from entering the West Bank and Gaza Strip for six months.

Other Palestinians, including university teacher Sari Nusseibeh, Nabulsi businessman Said Kanaan, trade union leader Shahr Saad and four other unionists from East Jerusalem have either been turned back at border crossing points or served with banning orders.

The director of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office said today the United States could break a deadlock in convening Israeli-Palestinian peace talks by clearly rejecting any role for the PLO.

Eritrean rebels hold Polish crew: The Polish government said on Monday it had received a report that Eritrean rebels were holding the crew of a Polish ship attacked in the Red Sea last week. A Foreign Ministry official told a news conference the crew of the cargo ship Boleslaw Krzywousty, attacked off northern Ethiopia last Wednesday, was reported safe.

Lloyd's shipping intelligence said at the weekend that 30 crew were missing. (Reuters)

Arens plans trip to Lisbon: Foreign Minister Moshe Arens is to make a two-day visit to Portugal starting Jan 17, and he will be the highest-ranking Israeli official ever to visit the country, the ministry announced Tuesday.

The visit is part of an effort to improve trade links, a ministry official said.

The Middle East conflict is also likely to be "a main topic of discussion" in Arens' talks with Portuguese leaders, the official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity. (AP)

France confirms envoys return: A French official confirmed on Tuesday that France was to be the first Western nation to send diplomats back to Kabul.

Junior Foreign Minister Edwige Avice said Paris had decided to restate its Kabul mission at the level of charge d'affaires. France and other Western nations pulled out their diplomats a year ago.

The move was not the result of any policy change, she said, but was being taken because Paris missed information from the Afghan capital and needed to provide protection for French citizens in the country. (Reuters)

Wilner resigns from parliament: Veteran Israeli communist Meir Wilner, a signatory to Israel's 1948 declaration of independence, retired from parliament on Monday after serving for more than 40 years.

Wilner, 71, a legislator from the Israeli-Arab Democratic Front for Peace and Equality, said he was retiring satisfied that his party was no longer isolated in its support for a Palestinian state alongside Israel. (Reuters)

Cabinet fired: Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre has dismissed his government ahead of a cabinet reshuffle, state-run radio Mogadishu said today.

The radio quoted a brief statement from the presidency as saying a new government would be formed as soon as possible.

The presidential statement gave no reason for the ageing strongman's decision to sack his entire cabinet.

Lockerbie suspect appeals: A Palestinian suspected of involvement in the 1988 destruction of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland appealed on Tuesday against a life sentence in Sweden for other bombings, his lawyer said.

Mohamed Abu Talb, 35, was found guilty by a Swedish district court last December 21 of aiding and abetting murder and other offences arising from bomb attacks in Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985. (Reuters)

Ministers prepare for summit: Junior ministers from the five North African states, including Libya, began preparations in Tunis on Tuesday for next week's Maghreb summit.

Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi said last week he could not come to the summit because of a previous engagement but diplomats said he has since changed his mind.

A spokesman for the meeting of secretaries of state said a major theme was relations between the Arab Maghreb Union and other regional organisations, especially the European Economic Community, which is by far their largest trading partner. (Reuters)

Drugs ring smashed in Iran: Iranian anti-narcotics agents smashed an international drug-trafficking ring in the country's western Bakhtiari province, and arrested 14 smugglers with a small cache of arms, Tehran radio reported Monday.

The broadcast, monitored in Nicotia, said the network had been active in a number of countries, including Turkey, which borders Bakhtiari. (AP)

Ethiopian generals plead innocent: Fourteen top-ranking Ethiopian military officers pleaded not guilty on Tuesday to charges of trying to overthrow President Mengistu Haile Mariam in a coup attempt last May.

The five major generals, eight brigadier-generals and one rear-admiral include the former commanders of the navy, police and ground forces and several top air force leaders. (Reuters)

Iraq denies accident

LONDON, Jan 9, (Kuna): Iraq denied reports alleging that the motorcade of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and Jordanian monarch King Hussein had an accident in which fire was opened and President Saddam's nephew was wounded.

An unidentified Iraqi official said that the story was "fabricated and baseless."

The Middle East Mirror reported yesterday that the accident occurred when President Saddam and King Hussein were touring the Iraqi capital after King Hussein's arrival.

The Mirror said guards accompanying the motorcade opened fire and mistakenly wounded the nephew of President Saddam.

Fire Badr, demands Egyptian opposition

CAIRO, Jan 9, (Reuters): An Egyptian opposition newspaper demanded today that hardline Interior Minister Zaki Badr be sacked for publicly insulting prominent public figures.

If Shaab, the socialist Labour Party's newspaper, splashed across its front page a report alleging that at two recent conferences the minister had insulted opposition politicians, writers, lawyers, journalists and Muslim scholars.

Badr was the target of a botched assassination attempt in Cairo last month. He escaped unhurt.

Shaab named the public figures singled out by Badr and printed what it said were the insulting and in some instances obscene epithets used by the minister to describe them.

An accompanying editorial said the daily had tape-recordings of Badr's remarks which Shaab said were made at conferences at Banha town in Egypt's Delta region.

"We turn to the President of this country (Hosni Mubarak) and tell him that the scandal... makes Zaki Badr's presence in his position impossible," it said.

Badr, long known for blunt language, is the strong arm of Mubarak's government and the man responsible for curbing dissent among leftists as well as Muslim militants.

Shaab published its report amid a renewed opposition campaign to oust Badr, whose security forces have rounded up thousands of people under emergency powers introduced in 1981 when Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, was gunned down by religious zealots.

Most have been freed without charge, but scores are still held and civil rights workers periodically report that prisoners are beaten or tortured, a charge denied by the government.

Muslim fundamentalists have emerged as the state's most potent threat to Mubarak's government.



Jibril challenges

Palestinian leader Ahmed Jibril, chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, gestures during a press conference in West Beirut where he challenged Western states to provide proof that his group blew up the Pan Am jet over Scotland in 1988. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jerusalem Post controversy: The decision by a millionaire Canadian publisher to acquire the Jerusalem Post newspaper and turn it into a right-wing mouthpiece is becoming increasingly controversial in Canada.

The Post has been owned for the last six months by Hollinger Inc, which paid \$17.5 million US for it last April.

Hollinger is owned by Toronto financier Conrad Black, who owns a string of small newspapers in Canada as well as the right-wing daily Telegraph in London. (Kuna)

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Tension increases in France as hunger strike by Iranian enters fifth month

PARIS, Jan 9, (AP): After four months on a hunger strike, the emaciated leader of an Iranian-directed team that bungled in a 1980 bid to assassinate an exile leader in Paris is sparking concern about possible new terrorist attacks in France.

It is widely believed that if Anis Naccache dies in prison, his friends will strike back.

Naccache says France promised to free him in the deal that resulted in the May 1988 release of all French hostages then held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon.

But under a life sentence, Naccache could leave prison only if pardoned by

Socialist President Mitterrand. Mitterrand has said he would consider a pardon, but has not made clear when or under what circumstances.

Naccache, a Lebanese Muslim who is supported by Iran's President and Foreign Minister, has lost 39 pounds (27 kilograms) since he started his fast Sept 8. He now weighs just 105 pounds (48 kg) and has lost his immune defenses to disease, according to his lawyer, Jacques Verges.

"If tomorrow someone goes into his cell and sneezes," Verges said on television, Naccache "could very well die from it."

Naccache is refusing food but is drink-

ing liquids. He is fed intravenously from time to time by doctors at the Fresne prison outside Paris.

"The death of Anis Naccache, if it comes brutally at the end of his hunger strike, will by all evidence be serious for France, which would find itself confronted by an increased terrorist menace easy to predict," the conservative newspaper Le Figaro wrote on Saturday.

"He cannot hope to free himself with a hunger strike," the President told reporters on Friday. "If Anis Naccache decides to die in prison and we do not have the means to stop him, this will be his respon-

sibility."

A year ago, Mitterrand called on Iran to provide proof that Naccache's liberty really had been promised in the hostage deal negotiated by the conservative government of Premier Jacques Chirac.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani and Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati both have said it was, but apparently have not offered Mitterrand any evidence.

Chirac publicly denied that Naccache was part of the agreement, and Mitterrand says, "I have no reason to doubt the word of Mr Chirac."



The Bangladesh ambassador gave a dinner on Monday night in honour of Mahmud. It was attended by Issa Al Mazidi, Chief of Protocol at the Foreign Ministry Ahmad Al Ayoub, Director of Asia and Africa department Abdul Aziz Essa Al Khodr, ambassadors of Searc member states, ex-director Ministry of Commerce and Industry Hassan Mohammed Rajeh and other dignitaries.

Travel tax to mobilise resource for Bangladesh

Co-operation to be boosted

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

BANGLADESH Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud has said that his government is satisfied with the Kuwait government's attitude towards foreign labourers and has left it to them to determine a basic salary structure for Bangladeshi workers.

In an interview with the Arab Times before departure for Bahrain yesterday, Mahmud expressed his country's faith in the Kuwait government's "forward looking policies (which will be) for the betterment of labourers."

There are about 70,000 Bangladeshis in Kuwait. After a meeting with the Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed on Monday, Mahmud said Bangladesh wants to send more workers to Kuwait.

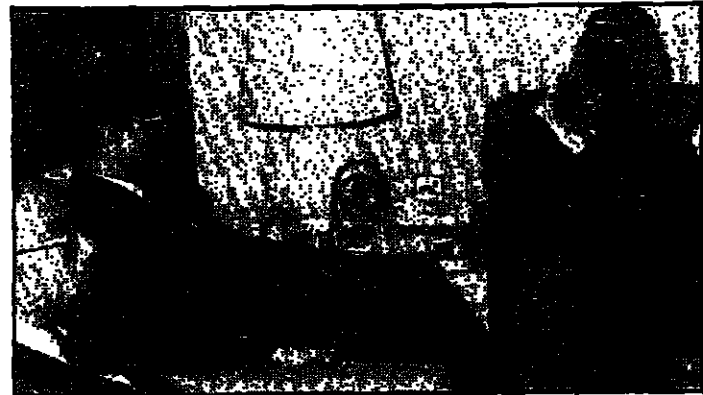
Mahmud expressed hope that HH the Amir would soon visit Dhaka to "see for himself" the contribution Kuwait has made to the economic development of Bangladesh.

Mahmud has delivered a special invitation from President Hussain Muhammad Ershad to the Amir to visit Bangladesh. Mahmud has also extended similar invitations to some Kuwaiti ministers. The Amir visited Bangladesh in 1980 and Ershad came to Kuwait in 1983 and in 1987 to attend the OIC summit.

Kuwait has funded six projects, costing \$154 million, in Bangladesh. Of these five have been completed and the sixth is nearing completion. These were in the field of agriculture and energy.

Five more new developmental projects have been identified in the irrigation sector, mechanical extraction of timber and the construction of two new bridges. Bangladesh expects further economic aid from Kuwait to carry out these projects.

These five projects would contribute effectively to the



Sheikh Nawaf (right) in talks with Mahmud (centre), Shehabuddin (left) was also present during the talks.

development of Bangladesh and we agreed, in principle, to strengthen co-operation," said Mahmud.

Mahmud also held discussions with officials to identify specific areas of investment and co-operation in various sectors.

Replying to a question about the taka 2,200 (about KD21) embarkation fee and travel tax charged at the Dhaka Airport, Mahmud said his government has to "mobilise resources" to spend on development.

"The embarkation fee is not charged for wage earners alone; it applies to all passengers using Dhaka airport; this money is used in developing the country," he said.

Asked about the fixed exchange rate of the taka against the dollar, Mahmud said he has looked into the problem. He said the "official exchange rate" has been raised to the level of the secondary exchange market, this equalises foreign rate exchange.

"I doubt if there is any difference between the official and the secondary exchange rate; the secondary exchange is dependent on demand and supply, and if this changes, it will change," he said.

Commenting on Indo-Bangladesh ties, Mahmud said the relations are good but admitted there are "minor irritants." However, he said he was

encouraged by the National Front government's statement to improve ties with the neighbours.

He expressed the hope that these "minor problems" with India can be resolved, including the Ganges water issue. Bangladesh is seeking equitable distribution of Ganges water.

Earlier Mahmud met Finance Minister Jassam Mohammad Al Khorafi during and held talks on co-operation in economic field, Kuwait Fund's further involvement in Bangladesh and Kuwait's participation in joint venture projects.

A KPC official also met Mahmud. Mahmud also met Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad and discussed with him means of boosting bilateral relations.

The Ambassador of Bangladesh to Kuwait K.M. Shehabuddin, the Counselor Mohsin Ali Khan and the Director General of West Asia and Africa at the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry Kazi Nazrul Islam, who accompanied the minister, were present at all the meetings.

Mahmud left Kuwait for Bahrain yesterday. He was seen off at the Kuwait airport by Minister of State for Service Affairs Issa Al Mazidi, Acting Foreign Undersecretary Faisal Al Mutawa and other Foreign Ministry officials.

Doctors hail legal shield

A NUMBER of physicians at the Ministry of Public Health (MPH) have warmly welcomed the doctors insurance law designed to protect them against professional mistakes while on duty, according to a local daily.

Dr Abdullah Al Refai, general secretary of Kuwait Medical Specialties Institute, said that the ministry has made the law mandatory on all doctors employed in the country and added that doctors insurance has become essential for the medical profession world-wide as doctors are subjected to professional risks which exposed them to be legally accountable.

The new law will encompass 3,000 practising doctors in Kuwait, Refai said and welcomed the participation of national insurance companies.

Dr Abdullah Abdul Aziz Al Rasheed, head of the Kuwait Medical Society described the new draft law as an adequate decision and added that such laws are being implemented in most countries of the world.

To highlight this issue, Kuwait Medical Society has decided to hold a symposium on health insurance against job risks at which a number of specialists will be invited to participate, the official said.

Head of the Dentistry Services Office at Hawalli Health Area, Dr Adebba Al Refai praised the new draft law. She said that medical insurance should be looked at as one of the main rights of the doctors to protect themselves from job risks.

Indemnity for UK medicos

IN a related development, Health authorities in England must from today indemnify hospital doctors against legal action by patients.

The authorities have been told by the government that they will be liable for the acts, errors and omissions of 40,000 doctors with National Health Service patients in their care.

It is the biggest change in professional insurance since doctors began medical indemnity 100 years ago.

It brings to an end the system under which the Medical Protection Society and the Medical Defence Union offered the same premium to all doctors, whether in high or low-risk branches of medicine or areas where few claims arise.

The government was forced to provide crown indemnity because of court awards exceeding £500,000 against doctors in specialties such as anaesthetics and obstetrics.

But, the two medical defence groups, backed by the Department of Health and the British Medical Association, are urging doctors to maintain their subscriptions to avoid personal liability.

Call for a unified Arab banking plan

ABU to meet in Frankfurt

THE rise of unified Europe in 1992 will reflect negatively on the banking sector, Dr Adnan Al Hindi, secretary-general of Arab Banks Union said.

He urged through a press interview all relevant Arab banking authorities to take the projected unification of European markets seriously and to commission the start of serious studies to identify expected negative effects.

Only through a unified Arab banking strategy will it be possible to confront the European banking strategy.

The Union would hold a conference in Frankfurt this year to discuss Arab Economic Council and the future of Arab banking sector, with the repercussions of the unification of European markets topping the list of its

activities, Hindi said.

He added that Arab banks are well-advised to take steps to increase their capitals and accelerate inter-amalgamation in addition to optimising inter-operation and co-ordination to fully confront the challenge posed by European and foreign markets in general.

He stressed the need for increasing Arab banking studies on the effects of European markets unification in general and those on Arab banking sector in particular.

He said that the Arab banks abroad were under great pressure, particularly those located in London and Paris, and that it is urgently required of all relevant Arab authorities to handle this matter seriously and be ready to confront any bad effects

on the Arab banking sector.

He pointed out that a unified Arab banking strategy was needed to stop the European banking amalgam to contact Arab banks individually, which had started in the Arab Occident. He stressed the importance of forming a central banking body operating under a unified banking strategy to confront the effects of the European group.

He added that the main obstacle before the amalgamation of Arab Banks was the speedy provision of high-precision data.

He said that the Union had since 1986 sponsored the composition of 35 banking releases, and that work continued on an annual basis to release 7 to 10 such compositions in order to enrich the Arab Banking Library.

Bids to cut deficit prove successful

CONCENTRATED efforts exerted to reduce the national budget deficit for the current 89/90 fiscal year have been successful, according to well informed sources.

These efforts have been directed at more organisation in budgetary channels in government ministries and departments by narrowing unnecessary expenditure.

However, sources refrained from estimating the size of the deficit, but said that current developments in the international oil markets, the price rise per barrel, and an increase in production and marketing would soon be known, providing realistic indicators of the reduction in deficit.

Meanwhile, the Department of Budgeting at the Ministry of Finance has commenced studying the proposed draft budgets submitted by government ministries and establishments for the forthcoming fiscal year of 1990/1991.

BAHRAIN DIGEST

AGU beset with host of problems

Campus remains unfinished

ARABIAN Gulf University (AGU), Bahrain's prestigious educational institution, has been beset with a host of problems since it opened its doors a couple of years ago. The university, widely publicised in the course of its construction beginning in the late eighties as the best institution for higher studies in the Gulf, has been embroiled with financial set-backs and staff disputes. For indeed AGU, hailed as an ambitious project built to serve the highest expectations of Bahraini and other Arab students in terms of the highest educational needs of international standard has unfortunately been in troubled waters with one obstacle after another, thereby seriously affecting its progress in fulfilling its high aspirations.

Lack of funds

AGU was devised as a dream project. The idea to establish a unique university in Bahrain that would serve the region's students with a wide range of subjects of higher education without the need to go abroad, was first mooted in the beginning of the eighties. An extensive plot of land was allocated by the government of Bahrain of Sohar in the south west of the island for this purpose. The GCC states as well as Iraq agreed to finance the building of this showcase of educational excellence with each country promising to contribute a fraction of the total required fund.

But for some unknown reasons some of the donor states have failed to make their share of payment towards the project. As a consequence a large number of local contractors and sub-contractors were not paid for their work in building the university complex.

Non-payments

It was reported in the local press that the contractors were not paid for their work over several months and in some cases since the project started. In desperation some of them resorted to legal action to get their money. The university on the other hand cited its failure to pay the contractors because of non-payment by some donor states. Not surprisingly work on the AGU project was halted several times. So far Saudi Arabia is the only country to have fulfilled its payment obligation in full. Iraq, quite understandably, could not honour its promise as it was engaged in a long and expensive war.

In recent times local media reports have highlighted the untimely cause of events faced by AGU.

Dismissals

Last summer the university got into a controversy when it dismissed several full-time and part-time lecturers. The university board of trustees cited financial difficulties necessitating staff-cutback. At least eight full-time lecturers including a number of expatriates, challenged their dismissal as unfair and illegal. They claimed that the decision to sack them was abrupt as no prior notice was served to them. Furthermore the sacking violated valid contracts said the staff. The lecturers undertook legal action against their sudden termination. At least three of them were awarded cash compensation.

The sacked part-time lecturers, most of them nationals teaching at the university's School of Medicine and Medical Sciences, are doctors employed in the Health Ministry and the BDF hospital. Grievances of about 30 of these part-time staff have been considered by the university and their contracts have been subsequently extended until August this year.

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Industrial goods top imports, exports

INDUSTRIAL commodities topped Kuwaiti exports and imports during the first half of last year, according to recent statistics issued by the Central Statistical Department of Kuwait's Planning Ministry.

During the first half of 1989, other economic activities accounted for 3.1 per cent of imports and four per cent for exports. Machinery and equipments represented 29 per cent of imports with the same percentage for petrochemical exports. Consumer goods accounted for 39 per cent of total imports, while intermediary and capital goods accounted for 38 per cent and 20.5 per cent respectively.

Manufactured commodities constituted 63 per cent of imported goods followed by semi-manufactured items at 26 per cent and raw materials at 9 per cent.

Kuwaiti imports from GCC countries amounted to KD270 million and exports to these countries stood at KD38 million during the first half of 1989. During the same period Kuwaiti imports from Saudi Arabia account for 51 per cent and from the UAE 27 per cent and Kuwaiti exports were 51 per cent and 27 per cent to these countries respectively.

Kuwait imported 36 per cent of requirements from Asian countries, including Japan, China and Korea during the first half of 1989, with 36 per cent from European countries with KD75 million from West Germany, KD65 million from the UK and KD53 million from Italy. Kuwaiti imports from America constituted 15 per cent of the total imports amounting to KD126 million.

Centre to help retarded in learning

Child rehabilitation

THE director of the Kuwait Centre for the rehabilitation of retarded children, Faten Al Bader told a local daily that the studies and endeavours made by the centre aimed rehabilitating children faced with difficulties in learning.

Among the students benefiting from these services were those who show different IQ level and those who manifested major difficulties in reading, spelling, oral or verbal expression. These shortcomings could not be traced to any organic cause or visual, hearing or physical disability, the official said.

She added that the centre had a special team of experts who carried out psychological tests on students aimed at determining the actual mental abilities of the student and consequently deciding on the best teaching approach.

Classes are given by a team of specialists on an individual basis under the supervision of a special tutor so that the student could acquire the skills needed to enable him overcome his difficulties and improve his learning ability.

The centre has a special unit with advanced technological equipment to help carry out rehabilitation programmes, which mainly depended on computer-aided technologies and psychological aid systems, she explained.

Parents who wished to register their child at the centre could do so at any time and all new children would have to take an entry test to determine their actual mental capacities and diagnose their conditions, Bader said.

She added that the centre had units at certain schools where special emphasis would be laid on students who had difficulty in certain curricular subjects, due to unknown mental factors.

A teacher of Arabic at the Child Learning Support Unit at a local school said that individual classes to students with difficulties to pursue knowledge had successfully been able to win students and improve their performance through diligent teaching and high quality patience where the applied teaching approached differed considerably from the method used with normal students.

Co-operative societies heads suggest review of law for better results

A NUMBER of heads of co-operative societies stated that the co-operative law requires comprehensive review. They added that more incentives should be given to national manpower to encourage them to join this sector. One of the main proposals is to stay away from tribal blocks in order to achieve public interest and to put more emphasis on co-operative training and diversity of commodities.

They indicated that the current co-operative law in its present form is the main difficulty for most co-ops. One of the major obstacles of the existing law is that it does not permit the co-ops to independently import their requirements. A section of co-operative heads pointed out that co-operative societies board of directors lack technical elements and that developing the co-operative sector requires diversity and availability of commodities.

Meshaan Al Mtairi, board chairman of Sabahiya and Ahmadi Co-operative Society stated that the co-operatives in Kuwait has reached a highly developed stage and that some obstacles are caused by individual actions. He added that such obstacles will disappear gradually through increasing awareness and choosing better qualified board members.

He indicated that the present co-operative law requires modifications to go along with current requirements. He indicated that the law failed towards providing board members enough stability in their posts.

Constant modification of board directors posts have created an unstable policy for most co-ops, he said and added that some of the co-ops are subjected to tribal blocks.

He indicated that some co-operative societies lack administrative and technical experiences in addition to the low educational background of some representatives.

Some purchasing operations are conducted by underqualified representatives which leads to many mistakes. Some co-operative societies lack storage areas and locations which affect purchasing, selling and distribution activities, Mtairi said.

Head of Sabahiya and Ahmadi Co-operative Society introduced a number of proposals aimed at pushing the co-operative movement forward. He stated that some of these factors and ambitions include the necessity of reviewing the co-operative law to be able to go along with current modifications and changes in the co-operative movement.

He stressed on the need for paying more concern to the training of national manpower to improve operations.

He stated that more incentives should be given to the national manpower in order to achieve stability for workers in the co-operative sector. He indicated the importance of unifying prices of commodities at all co-ops and unification of purchase operations.

Mtairi called upon establishing a co-operative bank which will take over all co-ops financial operations and management and also to provide them with necessary loans required for different activities. He suggested that in order to reach more accurate operation, the movement should get rid of the centralisation policy of Co-operative Department at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour.

مكتبة الأمل

First round of talks in Cairo

Focus on Gulf, Arab issues

(Continued from Page 1)

Mustafa added that, though sizeable, the increase does not conform with ambitions of both countries, hoping the volume would greatly increase in future.

Egypt exports fruits, carpets, garments and aluminium products to Kuwait and imports petrochemical products in return, Mustafa concluded.

Head of the Egyptian higher investment authority, Mubashir Al Gharib, said that Kuwaiti investments in Egypt are significant for their considerable success and high profit percentage.

He added Kuwaiti investments, totalling 110 projects by 1989 of which 61 projects have already started, cover fields of agriculture, tourism and construction.

Al Gharib revealed that the volume of Kuwaiti projects exceeds 1500 million Egyptian pounds, of which 61 projects have already started production, 18 are under establishment and 22 were previously approved.

Sheikh Saad and the accompanying delegation today paid a visit to Green Houses Centre where he was briefed on activities of the centre and its role in developing and expanding Egyptian agricultural land.

Sheikh Saad was received upon his arrival to the centre by Egyptian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Land Reclamation Youssef Wali.

During his tour to the centre Sheikh Saad inquired about the different techniques used by the Egyptian agronomy engineers in irrigation and green houses.

Afterwards Sheikh Saad and the accompanying delegation headed for the Embassy of Kuwait premises in Al Dugel area where he was received by members of the Kuwaiti diplomatic corps.

Meanwhile, a commentary broadcast today by Radio Cairo on the visit noted that it comes in conformity with co-ordination of stances sought in the interest of the Arab causes.

The radio added that the visit affirms the strong and deep bilateral relations and mutual goal of joint Arab work, citing that it comes four months after the visit to Egypt by His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed, less than a week from the visit of the Amir of Qatar and a few days before the visit of Tunisian President to Cairo, along with the four-member Arab Co-operation

Council summit here next month.

All these meetings aim at co-ordinating stances for Arab welfare, a goal called for by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who faces the international changes now witnessed, the radio said.

The radio hoped the year 1990 would signal "the start of the road" to find a solution for all pressing Arab issues and an end for whatever problems our Arab nation is encountering.

The Palestinian question, including the start of the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to which Egypt is exerting tremendous efforts and receives wide Arab support, tops such priorities, the radio said, quoting Sheikh Saad as saying such efforts exerted by Egypt for the Palestinian question represent a courageous Egyptian stance.

The radio concluded its commentary by stressing that unity of Arab ranks and stances are the right path to reach a solution for Arab problems.

Meanwhile, Egyptian newspapers today welcomed the visit of HH the Crown Prince and Premier which started Monday.

"Al-Ahram" semi-official newspaper said that the visit "climaxes a grand Arab presence in Egypt... a presence which reflects two facts at the same time."

"The first," the paper noted, "was the quick Arab response to the regional and Arab developments while the second was the need to an Arab unified confrontation through condensed co-ordination."

It went on to stress that Kuwait "was representing a home and settlement to Egyptians as Egypt was representing a backbone, an origin and a history."

"Kuwait cherishes the Egyptian expertise and skillful manpower while Egypt appreciates the Kuwaiti participation in all fields."

The paper highlighted anew the initiative announced on September 1988 by HH the Amir at the UN General Assembly to write off part of the Third World debts as part of efforts aimed at solving this problem.

Another Egyptian newspaper, Al Gomhouriya, described Sheikh Saad's visit as the visit of "the good and is another accomplishment on the path to enhancing co-operation ties between the two brotherly countries."

It expressed the hope that the visit will "contribute to crystallising the comprehensive Arab solidarity and entente."

OIC chief urges Iraq, Iran

Negotiate a final Gulf settlement

NICOSIA, Jan 9, (Reuters): The Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) appealed to Iraq and Iran today to negotiate a final settlement of the Gulf war.

In a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia, Hamed Al Ghabed expressed impatience at the slow rate of progress in reaching a final solution to the eight-year-old Gulf war since hostilities ended with a UN-brokered ceasefire in August 1988.

"Today, I have to state my apprehension and impatience, shared by the whole Islamic world, at the slow progress being made in negotiations," Ghabed said.

He said a recent peace initiative by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein revived hopes that the door to dialogue was not definitely closed.

Saddam, last Friday proposed that representatives of both nations meet in Baghdad and Tehran under UN auspices to reach a common understanding of UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Resolution 598 calls for a ceasefire, withdrawal of troops to internationally-recognised borders, exchange of prisoners and a committee to decide which side started the war.

Kisar plans to produce new breed of sheep

DR Merghani Bin Ouf, the researcher at the food resources department of Kuwait Institute for Scientific Researches (KISR), said that there are plans to produce species of hybridised sheep to cover local market requirements.

During a symposium held at Kuwait Agricultural Engineers Society, Ouf talked about methods used to improve and develop new sheep species with economical and social factors connected to this improvement.

He indicated that KISR studied several imported and existing species of sheep to select which have the ability to cope with Kuwait's environment and at the same time able to produce adequate quantities of mutton.

He stated that this project started 18 months ago and is now in mid way. He said gathered conclusions and data revealed that the performance of sheep will be almost similar to imported sheep if local sheep were provided with adequate management and fodder.

Local sheep could produce the same number of calves if mixed with good imported sheep species. The study also concluded that mixing local and imported sheep produced good mutton, Ouf said.

Dr Falah alarm at Muslim conversion

THE chairman of Asia Muslims Committee Dr Adel Abdullah Al Falah has called for encountering the conspiracy of converting Muslims to Christianity in Asia and other countries in the world.

He called on Muslim preachers to foil this plot by spreading the true Islam among the people.

He said it is necessary to enlighten the heart and the mind of the Muslims in order to overcome the dangers faced by them due to their ignorance, poverty and disease.

He told a press conference on the occasion of the information campaign launched by his committee that Muslims should extend the necessary donations

for preaching in Asia. He referred to the prominent role played by the World Islamic Charitable Organisation, based in Kuwait, towards extending necessary relief to the Muslims throughout the world.

He added that the organisation had adopted developed methods to keep in line with the international developments.

The organisation was competing with non-Islamic organisations in all fields, he said.

The organisation is collecting funds and investing them in several areas and its returns are spent on creating job opportunities for needy Muslims, he explained.

They will also discuss standardisation of rates for communications services and co-ordination and co-operation in the fields of post, he said.

Sharhan for Riyadh

MINISTER of Communications

Abdullah Al Sharhan yesterday left for Saudi Arabia heading an official delegation to attend the fifth meeting of communications ministers at GCC states due today in Riyadh.

Sharhan said in a statement prior to departure, that the most important items to be discussed at the meeting is co-ordinating the frequencies used in communications among the six GCC states and assignment of frequencies for every state.

Increase in drug abuse not alarming

Narcotics official stresses on need for a well-knit control plan

THE director of the Narcotics Department Col Abdullah Al Farhan has said that the drug abuse rates increased noticeably in Kuwait over the past two years, however, he added that given the geographical location on the map and the frequent travels of Kuwaiti citizens to drug infested countries in the world, the increase is not alarming.

He told a local daily that the remedy to this grave problem rested with society, the family and public media, adding that it was substantially important to lay down a well-knit plan, to begin with, to contain the problem and bring it to controllable limits.

He said the psychotropic substances came to be known in Kuwait as early as the mid fifties when expatriates brought into the country cannabis and opium. At

the time, they were circulated among the people, particularly because there was no law then against these substances.

He pointed out that it was a common practice among Kuwaiti families to give little children cannabis syrup after boiling to ease pains or to help ill children get to sleep. With the advent of the sixties more such substances came to be known, such as hashish and others.

He said that a limited number of cases were reported from schools about drug-using students, and that the Community Service Department at the Education Ministry showed full willingness to co-operate with the Ministry of Interior to follow up abnormal cases of drug-using students at schools or at university.

He added that preventive measures were also adopted by the relevant authorities at the Ministry of Public Health, whereby strict constraints were imposed on the dispensation of prescribed drugs, particularly psychoactive pills.

He said that attempts have been successfully foiled of drug smugglers seeking to use the country as a transit way to practise their illegal trade.

He pointed out that this resulted in the issuance of law No. 74/83 on drugs, law No. 48-87 on psychoactive substances, signing of an agreement between Kuwait and Turkey to combat illegal drug trade, formation of the Higher Commission for Combating Drugs, revision of certain legal clauses in the drugs and narcotics laws to introduce the death penalty for certain clearly-defined cases. These measures have and will definitely help the government curb smuggling efforts, the

official said.

He said that customs officers have played a significantly vital role in foiling drug smuggling attempts, adding that special attention had been given to circulating and providing information on potential smugglers. This not only helped arrest these criminals but also gave a clear account of potential smuggling techniques used by these criminals, Farhan said.

He added that a number of road accidents took place as a result of driving under the influence of psychoactive drugs, such as the commonly known "downers or uppers", which are forms of drugs obtained legally at hospitals.

An overdose of these drugs could sometimes result in the death of the person, and others would lose the ability to

control their vehicles, the official commented.

He said that the growing of certain types of drugs-producing plants such as cannabis was impossible in Kuwait for climatic reasons. But, certain attempts had been foiled for growing marijuana in Kuwait which contained two per cent of psychoactive substance. Kuwaiti legislators would prosecute all such attempts regardless of the percentage of psychoactive material in the plant.

He said that using drugs is a crime and was punishable by jail term not exceeding five years and a fine not exceeding KD 5,000. Trading in drugs is penalised by no more than 10 years in jail and a fine not more than KD 10,000, and that inveterate traders would be sentenced to 15 years and to a fine of not more than KD 15,000.

New test rules for driving

DRIVING tests that will be conducted in the future will differ from those at present, Saeed Al Jasser, director-general of Kuwait's Driving Training Company said.

Elucidating, he said, future driving tests will include training sessions on car mechanics, classes for law and first aid as well as traffic regulations.

Co-operation and co-ordination between Kuwait Driving Training Company and the General Traffic Administration will be enhanced specially in conducting traffic educational curriculums and programmes of driving schools and training methods. Driving tests will be conducted by the G.T.A., he explained.

The driving school to be built, will be the first of its kind in the Middle East, Jasser said. The building is to be located near the present technical inspection site of cars in the Shuwaikh area and will be the first building and headquarters of the company erected in the country. The project costs about KD800,000 and is expected to be completed next August. The contract was signed last August.

Similar schools will be opened in each of the governorates and will be built after completion of the first school and relative fees to be charged by the new driving school will be in line with those charged by private companies at present, Jasser closed.

The company will use normal small cars with additional brakes and distinctive colours carrying the present emblem of the company to impart training to students.

The company's board is contacting professors from Kuwait University and some other foreign universities to formulate the educational programmes of the driving schools.

Pamphlets related to morals of driving, traffic rules, car mechanics and first aid services will be printed and distributed to trainees in these driving schools.

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Attas note for Amir

HIS Highness the Amir yesterday received the Democratic Yemen Defence Minister Brigadier Saleh Obeid Ahmad who handed to HH a message from President Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas.

The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Democratic Yemen's ambassador to Kuwait and Kuwait's ambassador to Democratic Yemen.

Attending Secretary and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Kuwait's ambassador to Yemen, and Kuwait's ambassador to Aden Fawzi Al Jassim.

The meeting was attended by Defence Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Jaber, Democratic Yemen's ambassador to Kuwait and Kuwait's ambassador to Aden Fawzi Al Jassim.

An official source at the Foreign Ministry told Kuna that bilateral relations and ways of boosting and developing them in various fields have been discussed during the meeting.

The Yemeni official also explained the recent steps towards unifying the two parts of Yemen.

The United Arab Emirates newspaper Al Itihad yesterday commented editorially on plans to unite South and North Yemen, saying in part: "Unification of the two Yemens is no longer a strong national wish but a tangible move for which the leadership in the two countries are working so a new unified entity will be added to the greater Arab nation."

"Our nation has suffered division for a long time. But despite the common factors including language, history and culture, the Arab unity remained a mere ambition which does not transcend dreams due to certain factors that are out of its control."

"Amidst such developments, several attempts were made for a merger with some of them failing and others succeeding, especially the UAE federation which was followed by the Arab Gulf Co-operation Council. With the success of these two experiences, two other groups emerged (the Arab Co-operation Council and the Maghreb Union)."

"Today Yemen is undergoing the same experience but in a framework that will guarantee success. For the two Yemens are one country that was forced to be partitioned."

Stress on applied education training

THE chairman of the Society of Applied Institutes Teaching Staff Salah Al Abdul Jader has said that applied education and training forms the future of this country, stressing that this type of education has been established as a major necessity for the advancement and prosperity of people in different fields.

He said at a press conference held at the society's headquarters to discuss the conference on the realities and aspirations of applied education in the Gulf area to be held in November, 1990.

He pointed out, that due to its important role, Kuwait had established the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. This body will undertake the provision of local national markets with needed

cadres, contribute to balancing the population set-up in the country.

He said that the aims of the conference include the exchange of views, expertise and practices to promote development in all walks of life and to fulfil the national development objectives with optimum efficiency.

He added that other aims of the conference included appreciating the plan-making methodologies to determine the objective of applied education and projected contribution to the national goals.

The conference would also discuss the aspirations and projected development plans for applied education in the Gulf region, based on the strict commitment to meet user requirements, Jader said.

Measures to review services at ports

STATE Minister for Services Affairs, Issa Mohammed Al Mazzeedi stressed that measures carried out on charges collection and review of ports services aim at creating more facilities to beneficiaries.

He added that the first stage of the International Airport expansion project will end in 1995. He stated that efforts will be made to encourage and attract foreign airlines to operate organised routes to Kuwait.

These plans comply with the council of ministers decision aimed at activating the economic movement in the country, Mazzeedi said.

He pointed out that the Public Ports Authority plan includes a number of measures for the completion of several projects. He indicated that the total cost of these projects amounts to KD10 million.

He said that several projects will be carried out at Shuwaikh Port to address future requirements. Shuwaikh Port will also include several projects like the construction of buildings for the port administration, containers station, customs inspection and other activities. Moreover, several projects will be carried out in Doha port, Mazzeedi said.



Symposium

A symposium was opened yesterday at the National Centre for Computer and Microfilm by Sulaiman Al Zaid, assistant undersecretary for the centre. The symposium is being held to discuss the new computerised system for paying of government employees' salaries. Speaking on the occasion, Zaid said that the new system comes in response to HH the Amir's call to achieve a qualitative transfer in the decade of 90s in various aspects. A large number of government officials, accountants, computer specialists and experts attended the symposium.

Turkey, Bulgaria talks successful

Accord on ethnic issue

(Continued from Page 1)

basis," the communists stated.

The two ministers agreed on the need of further talks to make a better assessment, the communiqué said, adding that they also agreed to hold a meeting with this purpose during the opening session of the Open Skies conference to be held in Ottawa on 12-15 February 1990.

The ministers expressed deep gratitude to H.H. the Amir and the government of Kuwait for the initiative they have taken and the excellent arrangements they have provided for the meeting.

The Kuwaiti News Agency, Kuna, quoted diplomatic sources as saying Bulgaria's Boyko Dimitrov and Turkey's Mesut Yilmaz discussed ways of improving relations between their countries.

About 310,000 ethnic Turks fled Bulgaria last year because of the now discredited assimilation campaign of former Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov.

Bulgaria's new leaders have granted religious rights to the Muslims, sparking protests from Bulgarian nationalists.

The Kuwait meeting was the second round of talks on the minority problem and the first since Zhivkov was ousted from power in November. First round was held in October last year.

Following their first working session in Shuwaikh Palace, ministers of Turkey and Bulgaria said in a terse statement that the talks

were positive and that they have exchanged views over the problem.

The meeting was inaugurated by Kuwaiti Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed last morning in the presence of Secretary-General of the 45-member Organisation of Islamic Conference, Hamed Al Ghabid.

Yilmaz and Dimitrov and members of the accompanying delegation later had a luncheon hosted by Sheikh Sabah and was attended by Al Ghabid and other officials.

Sheikh Sabah said in an inaugural speech Kuwait has spared no efforts in trying to secure success of the talks which bring together Turkish and Bulgarian foreign ministers.

Sheikh Sabah welcomed the two officials and pointed out that consultations between Turkish and Bulgarian heads of states, in co-operation with HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed in his capacity as Chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, were giving the talks added importance.

After Sheikh Sabah's brief address, Yilmaz and Dimitrov held one-on-one talks.

Earlier in the morning Sheikh Sabah, accompanied by Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference Hamed Al Ghabid called on the Turkish and Bulgarian foreign ministers at their respective residences at the Bayan Conference Palace.

Al Ghabid earlier said the role of OIC is to encourage and support the efforts for the success of the Turkish-Bulgarian talks.

In an arrival statement Al Ghabid said HH the Amir of Kuwait plays a fundamental and active role in the talks, adding HH will spare no effort for solving the problem of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria by providing advice and wise consultation.

Despite Bulgaria's decision to restore rights to its minority ethnic Turkish population, tens of thousands who fled to Turkey last year show no signs of returning home.

"The relaxation of restrictions in Bulgaria on the rights of the Turkish minority may eventually affect the situation, but we have seen no sign of it so far," said Unal Erkan, the governor of Edirne.

Most of the 320,000 ethnic Turks who streamed from Bulgaria to Turkey last summer appear to be watching and waiting to see if Bulgarian officials make good on their promise to end the forced assimilation campaign begun six years ago by former Bulgarian communist leader Todor Zhivkov.

Bulgaria's communist leader Petar Mladenov, anxious to quell rising nationalist tension, has pledged support for the restoration of rights to the country's Muslim minority.

A report in the communist party newspaper Rabotnichesko Delo today quoted Mladenov as telling opponents of Muslim rights that Bulgaria's attempt to assimilate its ethnic Turkish and Bulgarian Muslim minorities since the mid-1980s had been a serious error.

"Decisions against the Muslims from 1984 were very grave mistakes," Mladenov told representatives of the union for the protection of national interests, which was formed last week amid a wave of nationalist protests across the country.

Communist and opposition leaders met with members of the Slavic majority and Turkish minority to try to end ethnic strife that has swept Bulgaria.

The unrest erupted when the new government ended policies that forced the country's Muslims, mostly ethnic Turks, to assume Slavic names and give up their language and customs. Nationalist Bulgarians began demonstrating against the government's reversal of policies.



The Worldnet interview with Peter Tomsen, US envoy to the Afghan interim government based in Peshawar. Above: some of the participants and Tomsen at TV screen answering the questions by Kuwaiti journalists.



The Kuwait panel during the Worldnet linkup with Washington comprised Dr Amir Al Haddad of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society, Saad Al Barrak, who is interested in Islamic and Afghan affairs and Mohammad Abdelhadi, managing-editor of the Al Mufatma weekly magazine. A number of journalists from the Arabic and English press also attended

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

OUR civilization is still in a middle stage... no longer wholly guided by instinct, not yet wholly guided by reason — Theodore Dreiser, US novelist (1871-1945).

Singh to loosen TV, radio control

Rajiv used media lavishly

NEW DELHI, (AP): Prime Minister V.P. Singh, in a bid to fulfill election promises, is preparing to loosen state controls on television and radio to end what critics called blatant government propaganda.

Since Singh took office Dec. 2, the nightly TV news has been showing him in the prime minister's office only about twice a week — a sharp contrast to the lavish daily coverage accorded his predecessor, Rajiv Gandhi.

Singh's government has introduced legislation in parliament to set up a corporation for the state-owned radio and television stations, to be headed by an independently appointed chairman immune to government interference.

Control

The television network Doordarshan, which was expanded to reach 75 per cent of India's 880 million people during Rajiv's five years in office, has been controlled by the government since its debut in 1965.

All India Radio, since its founding in 1927, has been under similar constraints, first by British colonial rulers for the first 20 years and then by the government of independent India.

Unabashedly pro-government programming reached a zenith under Rajiv, whose close aides dictated editorial content over hotlines to Doordarshan officials and barked orders to cameramen accompanying the prime minister.

"We used to get daily phone calls from the (broadcasting) minister and Rajiv's cronies on what to use and what not to use," said a television reporter, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Rajiv had to appear every day on the screen "one way or the other," another reporter said. "If he had no public engagements, he would be shown meeting delegations at his house," said the reporter, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

Power

Just before the November elections, Rajiv's proposal to transfer more power to village levels was reported for 12 minutes on the 20-minute evening news programme, the first reporter said.

"Take away five minutes for the headlines, the signature time and the weather forecast, and we were left with only three minutes for genuine Indian news," he said.

Such instances were the rule, said George Verghese, a media expert who was instrumental in framing the new legislation for Doordarshan, which means "seeing from afar" in Hindi.

But now with Rajiv's Congress Party in the opposition, the "Rajiv-Darshan" (seeing Rajiv) era is over and the new government is brisily undoing the damage, said Independent magazine Sunday.

"It was the biggest media heist in history," the news magazine said. "The country's sole television network (was) hijacked by a handful of politically motivated bureaucrats, entire ranks of

Doordarshan officials turned into unresisting yes-men and a heavy dose of programmes aimed at controlling the minds of millions of Indians.

Progress

Doordarshan started operations in New Delhi with black-and-white broadcasts. The network expanded to other cities in 1972, adding to the country's rapid progress in technology. Colour broadcasts started in 1982.

Although pro-government programming failed to save scandal-plagued Rajiv from election defeat, media watchers have concentrated on television in demanding autonomy for the media because of Doordarshan's omnipotence.

Its 500 transmitters can reach about 660 million people and 55 per cent of the land area through 21 million television sets. Most Indians are too poor to buy even black-and-white television sets that cost about Rs 4,000 (\$250). But government-owned community television sets are found in almost every village and draw large crowds.

Debate

The broadcasting autonomy proposed by Singh's National Front government has sparked a nationwide debate. Most observers have welcomed the move, but the former ruling Congress Party says autonomy will be meaningless if the corporation continues to be funded by the government.

The proposed legislation, known as the Broadcasting Corporation Bill, provides for complete financial aid by the government to the corporation. Information and Broadcasting Minister Parvathaneni Upendra has said privatization of radio and television would lead to a different kind of control.

"We are not going to throw it to the wolves, nor are we going to ask it to fend for itself. If we do that, big business or big industry will try to capture it. We cannot allow that," he said in an interview with Sunday magazine.

Law

The bill is likely to become law by Jan. 1, 1991. As an interim measure, the government plans to set up a five-member board to oversee the functioning of the TV and the radio networks.

Some loosening of media controls is already evident. Last month, the new government brought back to the broadcasting ministry a senior civil servant, Bhaskar Ghosh, who had been transferred to an unimportant cultural post by Rajiv's administration for not toeing the line.

Ghosh, a widely respected officer in Doordarshan and radio, is expected to enforce the professionalism he had inspired during his earlier stint in the ministry.

"But even now we are not going all-out in attacking the ruling politicians," one of the Doordarshan reporters said. "We will sniff before every step until autonomy is actually achieved."

Indecisive war of attrition

Uprising jubilation is waning

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, (CSM): When Palestinians observed the first anniversary of their uprising against Israel one year ago, their mood was ebullient. Their long quest to cast off Israel's 22-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was the focus of world attention. A diplomatic breakthrough, the first step toward a hoped-for Palestinian state, seemed near.

One year later the jubilation is gone. The rebellion led by stone-throwing youths has evolved into a grueling, indecisive war of attrition which Israeli troops have failed to crush and Palestinians have failed to escalate.

Hopes for a diplomatic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are fading, even though Israel and the PLO have now given conditional approval to a US plan leading to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

The grim realization has set in that translating civil resistance into an end to Israeli occupation will require years, not months, and more of the kind of human and economic sacrifices that have already left nearly 600 Arabs dead and the Palestinian standard of living cut nearly in half.

"Both sides have their authority in the territories," says a West Bank merchant of the standoff that now exists between the "shadow" government of the Palestinian uprising leadership and the Israeli occupation administration, backed by the blunt force of Israeli arms. "It's very complicated to live in the middle."

The Palestinian intifada began in Gaza on Dec. 8, 1987, following the death of four Palestinians in a road accident with an Israeli Army jeep.

The protest demonstrations that followed, which quickly spread to the West Bank, catalyzed years of pent-up hostility toward the occupation and revived the fortunes of the Tunis-based Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which speaks for West Bank and Gaza Palestinians. Two years later, the battle between Palestinians and Israelis remains inconclusive.

Although the massive street demonstrations common during the first year have given way to more subtle forms of resistance, including the non-payment of taxes, the intensity of the intifada has



Palestinian youths carry a wounded youth to a hospital during the uprising. (Reuters wirephoto)

not diminished. The number of Palestinians shot dead by Israeli soldiers this year is higher than the first year total of 277, according to the Israeli human rights group B'Tselem.

On the other hand, Israelis have grown accustomed to the uprising — despite economic and military costs running into the hundreds of millions of dollars annually — and have disengaged emotionally from the daily intifada-related deaths and injuries.

"Israel has a high threshold for the difficult, unpleasant, and ambiguous," explains Harry Wall, Israel director of the Anti-Defamation League.

Moreover, after two years of uprising, Palestinians are showing signs of discord and fatigue. Divisions among supporters of factions of the PLO and Hamas — the main Muslim fundamentalist organization in the territories — have widened over basic issues, such as whether to escalate the uprising by using firearms, how to deal with alleged collaborators, and whether to give diplomacy a chance.

Palestinians insist they hold no illusions about the

strength of their adversary.

"The intifada has taught us that we are dealing with a very determined and very stubborn enemy," says Raja Shehadeh, a West Bank attorney and founder of the Palestinian human rights group Al Haq.

But Shehadeh and other Palestinians argue — and few Israelis disagree — that the uprising has permanently altered the status quo that has existed since 1967. Never again will the Jewish state rule the territories without substantial political, moral, and economic cost.

"Even if the intifada stops today, we have come a long, long way," says a West Bank journalist, who describes the intifada as a "gestation period" that will precede genuine independence. "Israelis used to think of Palestinians as mere shepherds. Now they treat us with more respect."

So far, Palestinians can point only to such intangibles as greater respect and a stronger sense of political identity as the payoff for two years of struggle and sacrifice. More concrete achievements will depend on whether the conflict can be transferred from the back streets to the bargaining table.

The intifada forced the PLO to take the diplomatic initiative by recognizing Israel, renouncing terrorism, and opting to settle for a "two-state" solution.

The concessions drew the United States into a dialogue with the PLO one year ago and prompted Israel last May to float its first peace initiative aimed directly at Palestinians rather than Arab states acting on their behalf.

But even though the structure for a settlement is in place, the violence of the intifada and the brutality of Israel's methods of quashing it have redoubled fear and hatred on both sides — now the biggest obstacle to compromise and negotiation.

As a prominent diplomatic analyst notes, both sides have evolved toward each other without either instilling confidence in the other's good intentions.

"Even though the diplomatic gap between the two sides has narrowed, the psychological gap between them is probably wider and deeper now than ever before," explains Dominique Moisi, a senior fellow at the Institute for International Studies in Paris.

A symbol of quiet determination

CARMEL, New York, (CSM): Anna Walentynowicz is called the "mother of Solidarity." Her dismissal as a crane operator in Gdansk's Lenin Shipyard set off the strike that launched Solidarity — and earned her a permanent place as a symbol of quiet determination in Poland's independent trade union movement.

But it did not secure her a berth in Solidarity's subsequent power structure. Today, Mrs. Walentynowicz (Val-len-ten-OH-itch) opposes Solidarity leader Lech Walesa. When he took the movement into government, she accused him of collaborating with the communists and making decisions without consulting the movement's rank-and-file.

"Her views are completely unimportant," said national Solidarity spokesman Janusz Onyszkiewicz in a phone interview. "Some people in Solidarity who were impatient founded another organization (Solidarity Working Group). Walesa has no need to consult with them on anything."

If she feels slighted by her own exclusion from inner Solidarity circles, she does not say so. She clearly is not ready to retire as a footnote in history. As a member of the Solidarity Working Group, which brings together other radical union veterans, she calls for a return to trade union ideals.

Originally, she planned a brief tour to raise money for a memorial for Jerzy Popeluszko, an outspoken pro-Solidarity priest murdered by Polish state security officers in 1984. But conservative Polish-American groups ended up financing a full six-month speaking tour.

She came to "tell the real situation in Poland, because the American public has been misinformed by the news media."

"The American public is under euphoria that changes in Poland are leading toward democracy. But the communists are again deceiving public opinion and even want to deepen Polish (foreign) debt. The credits they are asking the West for are for communists and not for the people. The Polish people still have no control over how to spend these credits."

Her message is not a popular one, she admitted in a three-hour interview. Her slogan, "Poland needs freedom, not credits," has rallied little support with general Polish-American audiences. Nor has her severe criticism of Walesa, who made his own US tour seeking assistance for Poland's struggling economy. Her talks in New York, Chicago, Detroit, Buffalo, Washington, D.C., as well as in cities in Arizona, California, and Colorado often met with sharp questions from the floor and left behind a trail of heated letters in local Polish-language newspapers.

But, she says, she is used to standing up to opposition. And fear of authority, even within her own Solidarity movement, lost its hold on her long ago. She speaks with a steady earnestness that leaves



Anna Walentynowicz

little room for a light quip or amusing aside — or the charisma associated with Walesa. Her speech includes no qualification, no hesitation, no shades of gray; qualities that served her well during years of imprisonment and interrogation.

She began her career in 1950 as a welder in the Gdansk shipyard, a difficult job, but one she welcomed. "I was full of enthusiasm for the new communist government and its slogan, 'Youth are building ships.' I was convinced that communists were a good thing, and the future of Poland," she says.

Her views changed a year later while serving as a delegate to a youth meeting in East Berlin. At the meeting, she said, delegates were "told to lie and how to lie: what could be said to the public and what could not." Many in the Polish delegation used the opportunity to escape. The remaining delegates, including Walentynowicz, were locked into their hotel rooms and told never to speak of these defections in Poland. "We were told that if someone asked why the others did not return, we should answer, 'It's not true. It's just capitalist propaganda.'"

She turned to radical politics in December 1970 when strikes and food riots in Baltic ports brought down Polish Communist leader Wladyslaw Gomulka — and led to the deaths of 50 workers.

The new Polish leadership promised reform. "This turned out to be another lie," she says.

In April 1978 she became one of the founders of the independent trade union movement in Gdansk and launched an underground newspaper, Robotnik Wybrzeza (Workers of the Coast), to expose corruption and injustice in the workplace.

The union leadership began with three activists and grew to seven, including Walesa. Even though there are no women in the top ranks of Solidarity, four of the seven original organizers were women, she says.

"Women activists were in the worst situation, because they were responsible for children. But I could afford sacrifice, because I was a widow and my son was in the Army," she says.

Her first arrest for political activism came in December 1978. Without going into detail, she recalls it simply as a time of "humiliation and shame."

"I was treated very badly by prison authorities and in great fear. They asked me to collaborate with them in the shipyard, and when I refused they said, 'You will have an accident soon.'"

After her release, she sought out Andrzej Gwiazda, chairman of the independent labour union, and told him "I'm sorry, I can't work with you. I'm afraid."

He replied, "Why? What's wrong with you? If they're arresting you, they're afraid of you. If they're afraid of you, why should you be afraid of them?"

She recalls his rebuke as a turning point in her life. "While I was arrested every December thereafter for sponsoring a collection to buy memorial flowers for the victims of the 1970 massacre, the experience was never again as fearful, she says.

On Feb. 1, 1980, the authorities laid off many people involved in the independent trade union. Walentynowicz was transferred to a military shipyard with a warning that she would be fired if she continued to publish the newspaper. She refused the transfer and was laid off on charges of drunkenness. She fought her layoff in Polish labour courts, won the case on Aug. 7, but was not reinstated. Workers rallied to her cause. "The union told the crew of the shipyard that if they don't fight for the leaders of their cause, they will never gain anything."

Her account of the subsequent historic shipyard strike contrasts with the heroic version surrounding Walesa. He did not "leap over the shipyard wall," she insists. "The gates were open. He just walked through."

Nor did Walesa organize the strike, she said. It was organized by activist Jerzy Borowczak. "Then, when the strike was already in effect, Walesa appeared."

Walesa went on to negotiate legalization of Solidarity, and win a Nobel Peace Prize for his activities. After martial law in 1981, he never stopped preaching the necessity of compromise. When the communists offered to talk to him again, he agreed. The negotiations led to Solidarity's legalization and partially free elections and paved the way for Poland's first non-communist government.

Despite these successes, Mrs. Walentynowicz fears that compromise will not rid Poland of communism. To compromise is to collaborate, an option she refused in the early days of the movement, and sees no need for now.

"We're back at the beginning," she says.

Art Buchwald

Interview without answering questions

ONE of the big breakthroughs in television news is that it is now possible to conduct an entire interview without the subject of that interview answering a single question. Developed at the Sam Donaldson School of Communications' this method is being used by anchorman and women all over the country.

Here's how he goes: "Mr. Secretary. Your department intends to spend \$250 million for development of underwater underwear for the Navy. In light of our present fiscal situation, can you explain why you are asking for these funds?"

"It is my opinion..."

"Please answer the question — yes, or no. Did you ever go out on a date with Barney Frank?"

"I resent that question. I wish to be emphatic about this..."

"You appear to be beating around the bush, Mr. Secretary. If you don't want to respond, I can't make you."

"What was the question?"

Do you plan to take the Fifth Amendment rather than testify about what happened when you and Sam Pierce had a joint bank account in

Chevy Chase?"

"May I answer that?"

"Of course. That's what you're here for."

"I have never — repeat, never..."

"Just as I thought, Mr. Secretary. You've been toying with us since you came on the show. We ask you a simple question and you pretend that you're deaf. Shall we go on? Did you have any idea that Jackie Mason was going to get into so much trouble in New York City?"

"No, I didn't."

"How can you say that when ethnic politics is your specialty?"

"That's not true..."

"Mr. Secretary, we're starting to run out of time. Would you please get to the point?"

"I am getting to the point."

"Let that go for a moment and we'll discuss the Stealth bomber's advantage mileage programme."

"I don't know anything about the Stealth bomber."

"You didn't say that when you went to the President and sold him on refitting five more battleships."

"You've got me mixed up with someone

else."

"Can I assume from your response that once again you are refusing to answer the question?"

"Can I speak?"

"Yes, but make it short."

"You have taken everything I've said and..."

"That's about all the time I can give you, Mr. Secretary. I want to thank you for being on the show and shedding so much light on such a variety of subjects. Now, after this break, we'll sum up with my partner, Ronald Lockjaw."

"Roland, didn't you find the secretary elusive?"

"Very much so. He came here determined not to say a word and he stuck to his game plan. I am amazed at what few insights he had about the situation in the Brazilian rain forests."

"I guess the only thing we can assume is that the secretary is in more trouble than anyone realizes."

"How do you figure that?"

"Well, several times he tried to answer my first question, while I was already asking the second one. People don't do that unless they have a great deal to hide."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

Letters to the editor

Communism uprooted

SIR: Pope John Paul during his first historic visit to Poland encouraged Walesa and his group not to get frightened of the prevailing communist system. He told them to fight out that cruel system where human conscience was not allowed to function freely. Since then the uprooting of communism was started.

The free contact between God and human beings cannot be suppressed for long. The word of a religious leader can create more effect than that of an emperor or the head of the government of any country. The word of an ordinary priest in the church praying for freedom of conscience ignited the latest revolution in Romania. By using the venue of a pulpit, Martin Luther King, Jr. shook the mighty Americans practicing apartheid. By following the path of Christianity, Cardinal Sin in Philippines has permanently destroyed the 20 years dictatorial roots of Ferdinand Marcos. In the last election, listening to their leadership in India, Muslims voted in mass against Rajiv's government and brought in V.P. Singh's government to power.

From the present trend in the world and especially in the communist bloc countries, I feel man wants to seek more and more solace in God. Towards this direction, freedom of conscience is imperative. In the coming years, man will go on asking for more and more freedom either to practice his religion freely or to protect his identity, culture and tradition. The present USSR consists of several territories which were forcibly annexed to Russia by its leaders and imposed its ideology and conditions on them.

The people from these territories are now become self-conscious and assertive of their rights. Now they want not only to renounce the imposed communism but also to cede from Russian clutches. The territories like Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Armenia besides being Christian dominated are full of natural resources which are very much necessary for the Russian belly. Ukraine is yet another Catholic dominated territory which is the granary of Russia and because of this, Hitler's army in the last world war was trying to capture it in order to starve the Russians; this territory is also demanding secession.

In order to silence this secessionist movement, poor atheist Gorbachev had to eat the humble pie and rush to the Pope in Vatican in the name of détente and entente. But according to my forecast, within the next few years because of the prevailing movement in Russia for greater freedom, USSR will disintegrate into many independent nations. The present specter of Gorbachev's push towards this direction and if he is overthrown, people will turn restless there against the iron hand in Russia and thus civil war will erupt resulting in the creation of many independent nations.

Meantime, the whole scenario is watched by the West and Americans with optimism that Russia will disintegrate for which they were waiting since last 70 years. Russia's fall will naturally be the gains of Americans who then will have no opponent to dominate the world and thus the world will be without the power to counter-balance the Americans. This will have adverse effects on the smaller nations especially from Central America.

A. Veronica Fernandes
Kuwait.

Man and nature

SIR: Man's desire for freedom increases with the amount of oppression made against him. The more torture and oppression, the more eager one becomes for freedom. eg. Romania and freedom struggle in East Europe.

2. The most important thing for man's peace is his religion and his belief in God, eg. Romania.

3. Man should preserve its natural balance provided by God and he should never do anything to harm them. Man harms the atmosphere by using chemical substances and creates wealth by mass production. Now the whole world is affected. Man should take early action to stop using these harmful chemicals. He should start using natural methods of God for cooling and heating for instance water is a natural and healthy substance given to man for cooling and heating. Rather than using gas for cooling we should use water cooling techniques since the world is cooled by vapour arising from sea water.

4. The world is made by God for man. Therefore man's needs must be given importance. Institutions are made for man and therefore they should give priority to labour benefits and then they will get profits without trouble. Countries, governments should give priority to its people and to human beings as a whole and each country should strive with others to uplift human lives and desist from harming mankind by wars and from making weapons that can endanger the earth and its people.

C.K. Reddy
Safal.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Quote me

"A Soviet delegation led by Nikolai Ryzhkov, a politburo member of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee and chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, left Moscow today for Sofia to attend the 45th session of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance." Tass said.

"Let me sound out this call to every man, woman and child in this land — to unite and help us break once and for all this sinister threat to our freedom and prosperity. For if our people will allow armed might to supplant this constitutional government, surely there will be no end to nightmarish bloodbaths such as those happening elsewhere in the world." — Corazon Aquino, Philippine president.

"Look at Jesse Owens. He didn't stay behind, he went to the Berlin Olympics and won a medal. It doesn't matter if you're black or white. If you're a great athlete, you're a great athlete." Israeli Amos Mansdorf citing why politics shouldn't be mixed with sports.

"I still feel with all my heart that there is a major distinction between South Africa and Nazi Germany. With all the evil with which apartheid is associated, the white man in South Africa didn't put black people in gas chambers." — First secretary at Israeli embassy in Auckland.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Pace of export capacity accelerates

Iraq, US strengthen trade ties

Moscow raises gold prices

MOSCOW, Jan 9, (Reuters): The Soviet government, faced with a run on gold, announced a 50 per cent rise in the price of jewellery today and said the extra revenue would be used to help fund social programmes.

In a further sign of the squeeze on the Soviet shopper, authorities in Leningrad announced plans to restrict sales of certain scarce goods to local residents.

The Robochaya Tribuna daily reported that a car shortage was driving up the auction price of Volga Sedans to 100,000 rubles, more than four times the official state price and equivalent to 30 years' average salary.

This equals \$170,000 at the artificially distorted official exchange rate but around \$17,000 at the new tourist rate introduced last November.

A brief announcement carried by major newspapers said retail prices of jewellery and other articles made with gold would go up by 50 per cent from tomorrow.

There would also be a corresponding rise in prices paid by the state to buy gold from the population, the report said.

Gold has almost disappeared from Russian shops as consumers, worried about inflation and faced with growing pay packets and nothing to spend them on, have rushed to buy the metal.

Sales of gold and silver objects shot up by 45 per cent in the first day of last year, the latest period for which figures were available, while stocks fell by a third.

Production of the new tourist currency, the ruble, a virtual 10-fold devaluation of the public, also appeared to help trigger the run on the metal.

At a meeting in Leningrad, reported by the official news agency Tass, local authorities agreed to allow nearby Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in restricting sales of certain scarce goods to local residents.

"Until recently, Leningraders could scarcely complain about the shortage of consumer goods of primary necessity," Tass said.

Dollar higher, gold down

LONDON, Jan 9, (UPI): The dollar closed mostly higher against the major European currencies today, boosted by profit-taking for the German mark. Gold was down.

The dollar closed higher in Frankfurt, at 1.6805 German marks, against 1.6665 at Monday's close, and also was higher in Zurich at 1.5275 Swiss francs against 1.5252, in Brussels at 35.27 Belgian francs against 35.08 and in Milan, at 1.256.50 lire against 1.256.40.

The dollar closed lower in Paris at 5.7250 French francs against 5.7315.

In London, the pound closed higher at \$1.6535 against \$1.6530.

Dealers said profit-taking on the German mark came after comments by Bundesbank President Karl Otto, who said that a further realignment of the European Monetary System following the devaluation of the Italian lira last weekend was not expected.

Currency rates

KUWAIT, Jan 9, (Kuna): Following are the international currency rates as quoted by local banks and announced by the Central Bank of Kuwait today.			
	Buying	Selling	
US dollar	0.2908	0.2920	
Pakistan rupee	0.4774	0.4819	
Sterling	0.17365	0.17446	
Sw. Fr.	0.19008	0.19096	
F. Fr.	0.05091	0.05114	
Y. D.	0.002322	0.002334	
Japan yen	0.002067	0.002061	
Bah. din.	0.77156	0.77483	
UAE Dir.	0.07919	0.07953	
S. riyal	0.07755	0.07788	
Q. riyal	0.07987	0.08023	
O. riyal	0.75547	0.75838	

Interest Rates

KUWAIT, Jan 9, (Kuna): Following are the average KD interest rates of local financial transactions as reported by participants to Central Bank of Kuwait today.			
	bid	offer	
Period			
1 month	8-1/8	8-5/8	
3 months	8-3/8	8-5/8	
6 months	8-1/4	8-1/2	
1 year	8-1/16	8-7/16	

Exchange Rates

Indian rupee		0.17310
Sri Lankan rupee		0.07380
Pakistan rupee		0.13730
Bangladesh taka		0.08970
US dollar		291950
Pound sterling		493250
UAE dirham		174500
Deutsche mark		0.02019
Japanese yen		0.02019

NEW YORK, Jan 9, (Kuna): Iraq is getting ready to vault to the front ranks of the world's oil powers, a move that will greatly enhance the influence of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein in Arab and Middle East politics, the Wall Street Journal predicted yesterday.

Just 16 months after the ceasefire in the Iraq-Iran war, Iraq can already outproduce Iran, its export capacity is growing faster than that of any other producer and its status in world oil markets rises, the authoritative newspaper reported in a front-page feature article from Baghdad.

Pumping three million barrels a day of its claimed crude-oil capacity of 4.5

million, Iraq suddenly has emerged as the second-largest producer in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, after Saudi Arabia, the report said.

Iraq's political importance is growing too, the paper said, citing as an example President Hussein's key role in establishing the Baghdad-based Arab Co-operation Council which is developing economic, scientific and financial ties between Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and Arab Republic of Yemen.

Although Iraq and the United States don't appear to be pressing for closer political ties, the two countries are rapidly strengthening trade relations.

US exports to Iraq, especially in agricultural products and oilfield services, have been surging, while the US now purchases more than 500,000 barrels of Iraqi oil a day, making Iraq the sixth-largest supplier of America's fast-growing petroleum imports, according to the newspaper.

Just three of the more than 70 countries that produce oil — the Soviet Union, the US and Saudi Arabia — have more production capacity than Iraq does. But the Soviets are plagued with operating problems and the US is running dry. Only Saudi Arabia, now pumping about 5.4 million barrels a day, is expanding, the newspaper said.

Iraq denies, however, any intention of trying to replace Saudi Arabia as the number one producer, and says it will adhere to its Opec quota of 3.1 million barrels a day.

"I am not in competition with anybody," Iraq's Oil Minister Issam Abdul Raheem Al Chalabi is quoted to have said in an interview with the newspaper in Baghdad.

But the 47-year-old official also said, according to the interview, Iraq is spending \$2 billion a year on the industry and getting results.

"The emphasis was, first of all, on our export outlets, but we are continu-

ing development of the fields and exploration activities and will further develop refining," Al Chalabi said.

Iraq has 32 to 33 drilling rigs running now and plans to increase them by five or six in 1990, the minister told the newspaper. Last year, those rigs drilled some 130 wells in Iraq's southern region alone.

Asked how high Iraq's production can go, Al Chalabi said with its reserves and potential and fields, his country can easily produce from six to eight million barrels a day, "but we have no plans for that — yet." For now, he said, Iraq is keeping capacity at 4.5 million barrels and will review it, if necessary, year.

Officially, Iraq's proven oil reserves are put at 100 billion barrels — 10 per cent of the world's total and more than any country, except Saudi Arabia. Now it appears that the estimate is too low.

Meanwhile, Iraq said today it would slash its foreign debt this year by \$3 billion, nearly 10 per cent of Western estimates of its total debt owed to non-Arab countries.

Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told Reuters that an economic plan for 1990 provided for "reduction of the country's total foreign debts by \$3 billion this year, apart from other plans to pay part of the debts by oil."

Top oil officials to visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia

Japan plans to open retail market in Gulf

DUBAI, Jan 9, (Reuters): Top Japanese oil officials begin a Gulf tour tomorrow aimed at ensuring supplies from the region which provides Japan with more than two-thirds of its oil needs.

Their talks in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will centre on extending concession rights of the Japanese-dominated Arabian Oil Company (AOC) which produces crude in the neutral zone between the two countries, Gulf oil industry sources said.

They said the visit had added importance as Saudi Arabian Oil Minister, Hisham, Nazer will travel to Tokyo on January 25 to discuss the kingdom's requests for a share in Japan's fast growing petrol market.

"Japan plans to open its retail market to Gulf states in exchange for secure crude supplies in 1990s," an oil industry analyst in the Gulf said.

Masaji Yamamoto and Naoki Kuroda, senior petroleum officials at Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), will visit Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) between January 10-15.

They will then travel to Paris via Amman to attend an International Energy Agency meeting.

Middle East oil producers, the UAE foremost among them, supplied 76.3 per cent of Japan's 3.93 million barrels per day (bpd) oil imports last November.

Japan has recently reviewed its Middle East oil policy and wants to keep close contacts with producers in the region, a Gulf oil analyst said.

"In Saudi Arabia and Kuwait the main topic of discussion will be extension of the AOC concession beyond the year 2000," a

Gulf-based oil industry executive said.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have a 10 per cent stake in AOC and the rest is owned by Japanese concerns. AOC's production capacity is around 500,000 bpd.

AOC's concessions expire around the year 2000 and Japan wants to have them extended in exchange for letting Saudi Arabia and Kuwait into its downstream oil market, oil sources said.

Japan restricts foreign investment in its oil sector to protect domestic refiners. But it is also deregulating the oil sector, which may allow the entry of foreign capital into the retail oil business.

The presence of Gulf producers in the retail market would ease Japan's oil supply disruption fears and at the same time give Gulf producers secure outlets at times when world

demand is low.

The Gulf countries on the officials' itinerary already have downstream participation in Europe and the United States and plan to extend it to the Far East, oil industry officials said.

Nazer will visit Japan on a private basis between January 25 and February 4 as part of a Far East tour which will also take him to South Korea and Indonesia, oil industry sources in the Gulf said.

They said he planned to meet Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and senior MITI officials.

Oil consumption in the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, for 1989 as a whole, was estimated at 37.4 million barrels a day (mbd), according to figures released by the International Energy Agency (IEA) in its monthly oil market report.

Rumours send Tokyo shares, yen reeling

TOKYO, Jan 9, (Reuters): Rumours linking the ruling Liberal Democratic Party to stock scandals ripped through Tokyo financial markets today, sending share and yen bond prices reeling and the yen down sharply against the dollar.

The key 225-share Nikkei index tumbled 343.50 points to 37,951.46 while the dollar rose to 144.97 yen from 144.17 at New York's Monday close.

"This is a day everyone should have just packed up early and gone home," said Masahiko Tsuyuzaki, chief trader in the equity section at Tachibana Securities.

The rumours, which found fertile ground among investors jittery ahead of general elections here next month, held that Hiroshi Mitsuoka, a top official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), had been arrested in a stock trading scandal.

His secretary later denied that Mitsuoka had been arrested and said he was not involved in any scandal.

News of fresh unrest in the Soviet Union also eroded support for stocks and fuelled buying of dollars, weakening the yen. Soviet media reported further confrontations between demonstrators and border guards in Azerbaijan.

Expectations that détente with the Eastern bloc will produce profits for some Japanese companies has made the market sensitive to any problems.

Slower growth for GCC investment

DUBAI, Jan 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, made \$2 billion a week selling crude in 1981. It will be a mere half a billion this year.

The kingdom has seen its real investment and purchasing power fall to perhaps one-tenth, or less, of what it was a decade ago due to inflation and the falling value of the dollar.

The message for the 1990s is that the days of oil super riches in the Gulf are over.

Because Gulf Arabs have less money, economists and financial experts see three major investment themes in the next 10 years.

■ Gulf petrodollars will continue to search for more diversified, long-term investments overseas.

■ Gulf states will spend more of their available capital on boosting oil output capacity, on developing and maintaining their own economies and on providing jobs for their growing indigenous populations.

■ The overseas stock of investment capital of the six nations of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), which also includes the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman, will rise only slowly compared with world capital flows.

While in Japan, the Gulf's major oil customer, individual investors alone are saving \$1 billion a day, total current GCC oil income is only about \$150 million a day.

Regional economists' estimates put a rough value of \$350 billion on GCC overseas investments, about half public, half private. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait hold the bulk of them.

But most of the original capital was built up during the oil boom years of the 1970s and 1980s, and most of it is still in US and Western European bonds and stocks.

Gulf institutions have diversified in recent years in reaction to the rapid rise of the Japanese yen as an international currency, the drop in the value of the dollar and the 1987 stock market crash.

Japanese investment managers estimate the major Gulf players have raised the yen part of their portfolios to more than 20 per cent from virtually zero during the decade.

Three major factors could shift, or change completely, the development of these themes in the next decade, they said.

First, if oil prices do not stabilise then rise gradually, as governments and many oil strategists expect, all bets for a more stable economic ride for GCC states in the 1990s are off.

Second, if the GCC continues to develop its internal capital markets, there will be some repatriation of private capital.

Leading Arab economists have pressed Gulf governments to boost private sector participation in the development of their economies to reduce the reliance on oil revenues.

"Without reforms, (Gulf) Arab economies will remain completely tied to oil," said one senior Arab economist.

Governments have agreed in principle to a GCC-wide capital market, and, notably in Kuwait and Bahrain, government debt markets and embryonic stock markets have been established.

But economists see little room for a major expansion in private investment without much more market liberalisation, something governments may not want to do quickly.

A third factor could be a more active overseas strategy — taking a management role along with bigger stakes in companies, or taking over the companies altogether.

Kuwait is the only GCC state so far to have followed this strategy to any extent. Its interests now range from a growing network of petrochemical refineries in Europe, linked to its oil industries at home, to the older Kuwait Food Company's stake in Harry Ramsden's fish and chip shops in Britain.

But Kuwait Food is a major food processor and retailer in the Middle East, and Ramsden's has been tipped as a growth stock by British-based stock analysts.

"This contrasts with the more traditional Arab view of taking stakes and letting existing management continue unmolested," said a manager at a major investment firm.

Despite this and other examples in recent years, some Gulf investors prefer a lower investment profile, remembering hostility toward Arab wealth during the oil boom.

Britain's demand last year that Kuwait lower its large stake in British Petroleum Plc on grounds it was a strategic industry, persuaded many Gulf Arabs that Western distrust of their money persisted.

Others think otherwise. "The world is jealous of Japanese money now. Arabs are safe," said a Japanese businessman.

Arms purchases helped industry: Riyadh

NICOSIA, Jan 9, (Reuters): Saudi Arabian Industry Minister Abdulaziz Al Zamel has said that his country's big arms purchases from abroad have helped boost local industry.

"Saudi Arabia has profited from its foreign defence purchases to a large extent through the establishment of joint industrial and services companies with those who signed contracts with the Ministry of Defence," Zamel told Saudi television late last night.

"The kingdom will buy military equipment to defend itself, but at the same time asks foreign companies to put part of their investments in the kingdom against these purchases," the Saudi Press Agency, received in Cyprus, quoted him as saying.

He said two major projects had already emerged as part of this policy. He expected four other projects to follow but did not specify them.

Al Zamel was apparently referring to a proposal by British aerospace to set up six joint ventures with Saudi Arabia in a \$1.6 billion offset programme linked to the \$24 billion Al Yamamah arms deal.

Saudi Arabia last week unveiled a \$38.1 billion budget allocating 36 per cent for defence — the biggest military budget in the Middle East.

Zamel predicted the country's exports would rise by 50 per cent in the next five years and expected the non-oil sector to increase its contribution. He said non-oil exports earned Saudi Arabia around 10 billion riyals (\$2.67 billion) last year.

Currency Monitor reviews market

Oil revenues begin to diminish

This is the second part of this article. First part appeared on Tuesday, Jan 9.

Sterling

Despite the authorities' strong anti-inflation policy of successively higher interest rates throughout the 1980s, sterling has weakened significantly over the course of the year. This, as anticipated, largely reflects the currency's vulnerability on fundamentals to an expanded current account deficit and rising prices.

The situation was little helped by the open policy conflict on the management of the exchange rate between the prime minister and her previous Chancellor Nigel Lawson. On the year sterling lost 11 points on a trade-weighted basis to 86.9 against the DM over 40 pence to DM2.78 (partly on DM strength) and over 10 per cent vis the dollar to current \$/£1.61.

October's trade deficit at £1.84 billion brings the cumulative position for the first ten months of 1989 to £20.3 billion providing an annualised figure of £24.4 billion. The current account estimated to be over £20 billion for the year represents a deficit well in excess of 4 per cent of GNP (and is in relative terms greater than that of most industrialised nations).

Little substantive improvement is visualised for the forthcoming year. As oil revenues begin to diminish, the non-oil manufacturing balance, which has been in decline since the early 1980s shows few indications of reversing.

Sterling's past strength combined with above average OECD consumer and wage inflation, has eroded UK competitiveness and export manufacturing has undoubtedly suffered. As import demand weakens in line with lower economic activity, the gap should show some signs of closing. However, a currency account deficit representing 5 per cent of GNP for this year is forecast.

Deutsche mark

The West German Deutsche mark has strengthened significantly over the course of 1989, much of it coming during the latter part of the year. On a trade-weighted basis the currency has gained over 6 points to 118.1. The DM progressively gained vis a weaker Japanese unit to over 185 compared with 170 at the start of the year.

The advance has been equally impressive against sterling with the DM moving from DM2.22 in January to current DM2.78. Further losses vis the dollar have been entirely recouped to below the \$/DM1.70 level.

In line with our long held belief, the DM has strengthened on the back of its vastly superior economic performance. Despite a tighter monetary stance, current strong growth will provide a GNP figure of 1989 in excess of 4 per cent reflecting sustained domestic investment and buoyant export demand.

The external account continues to benefit. Although narrowing in October the trade surplus of DM9.5 billion brought the position for the first 10 months of the year to DM114.1 billion compared with DM102 billion over the same period in 1988.

Japanese yen

Over the year the yen has weakened considerably, reflecting largely the earlier political uncertainty and more recently the reluctance of the central authorities to move domestic interest rates higher in line with international rate rises elsewhere.

On an effective trade weighted basis the Japanese currency has depreciated from 150 at the start of the year to a current 132. A large component of the loss has been against a strong Deutsche mark with the yen losing over 17 per cent to just DM3. Despite the dollar's recent weakness the US currency on a year to year basis also remained ahead, as did sterling.

Electronics show

Digital audio tape units previewed

LAS VEGAS, Jan 9, (AP): Digital audio tape decks, which offer the sound fidelity of compact discs along with the capability to record, could be sold in the United States by summer, two leading Japanese manufacturers say.

Both Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., which produces the Panasonic and Technics brands, and Sony Corp. say they hope to introduce the DAT recorders in the US this year.

Sony was vague on its plans, but Matsushita said at this week's consumer electronics show that it will market a home recorder this summer at a price of about \$1,300.

The recorders, long-awaited by audio buffs, have been on sale for several years overseas, but their introduction to the US market had been held up by record companies, which fear that DAT's ability to make high-quality recordings will encourage pirating and cut into company disc sales.

That issue was for the most part resolved last summer, however, when an agreement was reached

on new technology that would allow direct copying onto a digital audio tape, but would not allow unlimited copies to be made of those tapes.

Manufacturers say they hope to capture a large segment of the high-end audio market with the recorders despite their steep price tag. In addition, blank DAT cassettes will cost \$12 to \$18, or more than twice the price of conventional blank cassettes. The recording time of the DAT tapes is similar to that of conventional cassettes.

"I think it has the capability of being a very large market," said John Birmingham, president of Sony's US tape division. "Compact discs and digital audio tape will exist together like LP albums and cassettes did before."

Birmingham said Sony envisions DAT tapes, which are about half the size of normal cassette tapes, being used in its popular Walkman stereos and in car stereos. A consumer could record onto the tapes with a home tape deck and play them in car or personal stereos, he said.

"You have some problems now with (portable and car) CDs with taking them jogging or on a rough road," Birmingham said. "With DAT, you wouldn't have that problem."

Both DATs and CDs use digital technology to reproduce music, offering little distortion and high dynamic range. In addition, DAT tapes lack the "hiss" that plagues conventional tape, and many audiophiles believe it produces a deeper and more rich sound than compact discs.

But sales have been disappointing during the three years DAT equipment has been on the market in Japan because of high prices and initial opposition from record industry groups.

Under the July agreement, which still must be codified by federal legislation, new DAT equipment will be able to make near-perfect direct digital recordings from digital sources such as CDs, but will add a "flag" signal to the tape to prevent any second-generation copies from being made from the tape.

Saudi, Iraqi ministers inaugurate pipeline

NICOSIA, Jan 9, (Reuters): The Saudi and Iraqi oil ministers today formally opened a pipeline that will add some 1.1 million barrels per day to Iraq's oil export capacity, the state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported.

The Iraqi pipeline, through Saudi Arabia (Ipsa-2) was inaugurated by Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Al-Nazer and his Iraqi counterpart Issam Al-Chalabi at a ceremony in the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

"This project reflects the depth of co-operation between our two countries... on the bilateral and international levels," SPA received in Cyprus, quoted Nazer as saying.

Chalabi said the \$2 billion pipeline was strategically important for Iraq, which started the project two years ago at the height of its eight-year war with Iran.

A UN-sponsored ceasefire last August ended the fighting but brought no lasting settlement.

The new pipeline will take Iraq's export capacity to at least 4.1 million bpd compared with its Opec-assigned quota of 3.14 million bpd.

Oil industry sources said the 142-cm (56-inch), 960-km (596-mile) pipeline has an initial capacity of around one million bpd, rising to around 1.54 million bpd by the end of January after completion of pumping facilities.

They said that once Ipsa-2 was fully commissioned, the Ipsa-1 pipeline now carrying some 300,000 bpd to the Saudi petroleum network would be closed.

Iraq has already paid for five per cent of the project in cash and the rest will be paid for in oil deliveries, the sources said.

The new pipeline will carry Iraq's light Basra crude from its oil-rich south to Al-Mu'ajjiz export terminal, some 50 km south of Yanbu.

It was built by a consortium led by the Italian company Saipem and including Japanese, South Korean, Italian and Iraqi firms. US engineering and construction consultants were also involved.

Nazer said Saudi Arabia and Iraq, both members of Opec, shared similar views "in more than one area towards a stable international petroleum market that benefits the producer and satisfies the consumer."

He praised the November 28 pact by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries setting an overall ceiling of around 22.1 million bpd for the first half of this year.

"Its impact is represented in market stability and price improvement," he said.

US to push for major changes in trade talks

WASHINGTON, Jan 9, (AP): US Trade Representative Carla Hills said today that President George Bush's administration will push for wide-scale changes as it enters the final year of negotiations aimed at rewriting the rules of global trade.

She said that eliminating trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, which are costing billions of dollars worldwide, remained a top priority but that the farm issue was only one of several areas in which the administration is making efforts to expand opportunities for US exporters.

"I have a political imperative to get reform across the board," she told reporters during a news conference.

The Bush administration hopes to use the global trade negotiations, known as the Uruguay round, as a way of expanding export opportunities for US farmers and businesses and thus reverse the country's trade deficit, currently stuck above \$100 billion annually.

The negotiations, involving the 96 member countries of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, are due to conclude in December. Hills said, however, that she hoped an agreement in at least one key area, the rules guaranteeing market access, can be worked out well in advance of the final deadline.

She said that resolution of this topic is possible because "there is no East-West or North-South split (between countries). There are problems for everyone in the package and benefits for everyone in the package."

Hills also listed a US initiative to write rules covering about \$1 trillion in annual global trade that is either not now protected by GATT rules or for which the current protection is inadequate.

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Nuclear power industry to get a boost

Canada to spend \$17.2b on 10 new reactors

TORONTO, Jan 9, (Reuters): Canada has rekindled its faith in the nuclear power industry with a plan by its largest power supplier to spend \$17.2 billion on 10 new reactors over the next 25 years.

Ontario Hydro last month proposed spending a total \$53 billion by 2014 on new nuclear, gas and hydroelectric stations, and on refurbishing coal plants, to meet the projected energy needs of Ontario, Canada's most industrialised province.

The company, already the world's third-largest nuclear power producer, has renewed its commitment to an industry which for the last decade has been dogged by accidents, public distrust and stagnant sales world-wide.

State-run Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd (Aec), which will build Ontario's new reactors, believes the 1990s will witness a resurrection of nuclear power with a steady increase in demand at home and abroad.

Aec, which has not sold a reactor since 1981, puts its new optimism down to a growing confidence that nuclear power can offer a cleaner alternative to coal and other energy sources.

It also notes that most of the world's easily accessible dam sites have been

harnessed and that natural gas reserves cannot meet the power needs of the world in the next 20 years.

"Thirty years from now, natural gas supplies will be running out, and the only cost-effective and environmentally safe power source (left) will be nuclear," said Aec spokesman Mac Keillor.

"Over the next 20 years you will see nuclear power slowly establish itself as the dominant power source," he added.

Keillor cited US studies suggesting about 62,000 people had died from respiratory and other diseases caused by coal-fired plants in the past 70 years.

This compared with 31 deaths from the direct effects of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Soviet Union.

Aec feels it has an unbeatable design in its heavy-water Candu reactor, which should attract other Canadian provinces. New Brunswick and Saskatchewan are already considering purchases and Newfoundland has said it would study the nuclear option.

In December South Korea's state-run Korean Electric Power Corp. obtained approval to spend \$1 billion on an Aec reactor, adding to one Aec built for them in 1970s. The Canadians,

who have been working on the sale for months, feel they have it largely sewn up.

Although there is no shortage of buyers for reactors, especially in the Third World, political and financing problems can often hamper a sale.

In September Israel inquired about buying a \$862 million Candu, but Canada said a sale could only occur if Israel signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and agreed to a strict monitoring process, designed to ensure reactors are not used for military purposes.

Aec hopes to keep ahead of com-

petitors with the Candu 3 model, a smaller reactor with a standardised, modular design that can deliver 450 megawatts of power and be built in 35 months.

About 80 per cent of plants being constructed or planned around the globe in the 1990s are in the 400-megawatt range, according to the Canadian Nuclear Association Industry Group.

"Candu 3 is our big hope, we're expecting a real turnaround," said Keillor. "Our competitors are starting to build smaller reactors, while we have already been designing and developing one for three years."

Third World and Eastern Europe may get billions

Rich nations may contribute \$25b or more

WASHINGTON, Jan 9, (AP): Governments of major industrial countries, with the United States at the top of the list, are expected to agree soon to contribute \$25 billion or more to help Third World and Eastern European countries through the International Monetary Fund.

The fund works out agreements with borrowing countries on new policy programmes for them. They usually include a large dose of austerity for the borrowing country.

When agreements are reached, the fund lends heavily to support them. Its most recent accord, due for final approval this month, will provide Poland's new non-communist leadership with \$710 million this year.

Billions more from other lenders are expected to follow and the fund is planning to negotiate a bigger loan for a longer period before the end of the year.

In return Poland has made a series of moves toward a market-driven economy, ending price controls and promising to sell or shut down government industries that are running heavy losses.

Of a \$50-billion contribution, \$10 billion would be expected from the United States.

But that expectation may be too much.

"There will be trouble getting Congress to approve," predicted a congressional aide who follows the issue closely.

"A lot of congressmen will resist giving all that money to foreigners while their own favourite programmes are being cut at home."

The aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity, recalled that the last US contribution of \$8.5 billion was approved by a narrow margin in 1983. On the one hand,

the widespread feeling that Eastern Europe must be helped will carry much weight within Congress, he said.

Other leading countries — Japan, West Germany, France and Britain — would furnish \$2 to \$4 billion each. The exact proportion is one of the questions holding up an agreement.

Lower-level officials are trying to set the exact figures this week and resolve the question of Japan's share. If they fail, Finance Minister Michael W. Wilson of Canada is expected to call together US Treasury Secretary Nicholas F. Brady and other leaders to make the decision at the end of this month. They would meet as the fund's interim committee, of which Wilson is the new chairman.

The fund now has resources worth about \$117 billion but much of it is in the form of third World currencies that borrowers

do not need. Michel Camdessus, the fund's managing director, asked that the total be doubled. That was well before the upheaval in Eastern Europe brought a big jump in the total of prospective borrowings.

Many of the 152 member governments went along. They are represented by the 22-member board of executive directors. Six of the 22 have their own members: The United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, and Saudi Arabia. The other 16 members represent groups of countries.

According to Camdessus, 19 of the 22 backed an increase of at least two-thirds: \$78 billion worth. Camdessus did not name the other three, but it became known that they proposed lower figures: the United States \$41 billion, Britain \$23 billion and Saudi Arabia less than \$12 billion.



Stock exchange dealers gesture during trade in Buenos Aires on Monday. The prices of the principal stocks dropped 50 per cent, the biggest drop in 13 years, after the government announced new economic measures to stop hyperinflation. (Reuters wirephoto)

New trade restrictions imposed Colombia still waiting for US aid

WASHINGTON, Jan 9, (Reuters): More than three months after the United States promised trade and economic aid to Colombia in support of its war on drugs, many of the promises have yet to be delivered, US and Colombian sources said today.

"Things are moving at a brisk pace in a few areas. In many areas there is no perceptible movement yet and they will have to get moving for the plans to be truly filed," a Colombian diplomatic source told Reuters.

US pledges to help revive international coffee price supports crucial to Colombia's economy have so far been fruitless. Promises to open US markets to more Colombian goods have not materialised, while new trade restrictions have been imposed.

A failure to deliver could worsen US-Colombian tensions as President George Bush prepares for a high-profile drug summit with Latin American leaders in Colombia in February.

Tensions between the two nations, which were drawn together last year as allies in a war against the international drug trade, have begun to worsen as the United States flexes its military muscles in Latin America.

Colombian officials criticised the December US invasion of Panama. And over the weekend Colombia said it would not take part in a US naval flotilla

to be stationed in international waters off of Colombia to monitor air traffic from the nation for signs of drug activity.

However, the Colombian government's most vocal critic of the US actions, Foreign Minister Julio Londoño Paredes, was to resign on Monday, a Colombian radio report said.

After meeting Colombian President Virgilio Barco in September, Bush said he would support such aid initiatives as lower duties on Colombian goods, international loans, and help with prices for coffee, Colombia's largest legal export.

Some programmes are moving forward, officials said. Colombia is expected to submit next week a list of products for which the United States invited it to seek duty-free entry.

And Colombia by the end of 1989 had received \$600 million of a \$1.6 billion commercial loan supported by the United States, and \$150 million in the final instalment of a multilateral development loan, the Colombian official said.

But in an action Colombia criticised as a retreat, the United States said Colombia was dumping exports to cut flowers to the United States and would face double duties.

The preliminary finding would affect about \$200 million worth of Colombian flower exports yearly.

New wave of price rises proposed

ATHENS, Jan 9, (Reuters): Prime Minister Kiriakos Karamanlis, whose all-party government was formed to deal with the country's economic crisis, proposed yesterday a new wave of price rises to help finance Greece's high budget deficit.

The amount of increases, to be discussed on Wednesday among the coalition's conservative, socialist and communist leaders, was not disclosed but includes higher taxes on fuel and cigarettes, higher bus fares and more effective tax collection.

The measures would be the second round of price rises in the past month. In December, the government ordered rises ranging from 18 to 60 per cent. Newspapers described the move as "an aspirin to the problem."

More than a million workers are expected to strike on January 25 protesting against the price rises and campaigning for higher salaries.

The budget deficit for 1989 is expected to top two trillion drachmas (\$12.5 billion), about 22 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). Greece's output of goods and services.

"If the deficit is not financed the proper way then the only alternative solution is to issue inflationary money," government spokesman Prokopis Pavlopoulos quoted Zolotas as saying.

He said the measures aimed to reduce state borrowing by 2.5 to three per cent of GDP in 1990. GDP for 1989 is forecast at 8.7 trillion drachmas (\$54.5 billion).

"If the measures are not taken the state borrowing needs will go up by one per cent," Pavlopoulos said.

Zolotas also proposed cutbacks on bank subsidies and the immediate introduction of cash registers in all private businesses to help curb tax evasion.

Currency slides Leading stocks plunge

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Jan 9, (AP): Leading stocks plunged by 53 per cent yesterday when the market reopened for the first time in more than a week.

Meanwhile, the government disclosed that inflation in December soared by 40.1 per cent, bringing the 1989 total to a record 4,923 per cent.

In more bad news for the government of President Carlos Menem that is implementing its fourth stabilisation plan in six months, the national currency slipped against the US dollar to 1,650 australs per dollar, down from about 1,400-1 last Friday.

It was the sudden devaluation of the austral two weeks ago that ignited price hikes of 100 per cent and more in almost every item that can be found in supermarkets and department stores. The rate last November was 1,000-1; last February, 17-1.

January inflation likely will be at least 40 per cent due to a carryover effect, acknowledged Moises Iacono, planning secretary at the Economy Ministry.

In calculating the cost of living, the National Institute of Statistics and census used, as usual, the first three weeks of December and the last week of November. The January figure will include the last week of December.

The fall in stock prices was due in part to the shortage of australs in circulation, analysts said. On Jan 1, the government unilaterally converted several billion dollars of short-term certificates of deposit to 10-year bonds.

That was intended to stop Argentines from investing in the US dollar as they did in late December, driving down the value of the austral at one point to below 2,000-1.

While the austral seemed to stabilize last week, other economic indicators continued to deteriorate. Real wages are about one-half their level a year ago. The free market value of the bonds issued for the certificates of deposit hovered at 22 per cent of face value.

Total volume yesterday on the stock exchange, as usual, was low: about 6.3 billion australs (about \$3.9 million).

In an economy where inflation has been triple-digit in 14 of the past 15 years, few people invest in stocks to protect their money, and few companies count on the market to raise funds.

The market, last open on Dec 28, was closed two days for national holidays, two days by bank holidays, and two days by its board of directors, which feared a sell-off due to the austral shortage.

The independent news agency Diarios Y Noticias said that the 16 stocks of major companies which plunged by an average 53 per cent was a "historic session that had no precedent."

Nevertheless, the stock market drop was perhaps less important than the slide of the austral, the distortions in the supply chain, and the ominous indication that inflation was approaching hyperinflation again.

Last June, prices rose by 114 per cent; last July, by 196 per cent.

The board of business wholesalers in a statement said the economic situation was "a crisis that is almost terminal," and urged the government to cut the national budget deficit that is widely seen as the cause of inflation.

Inflation in 1989 was by far the worst Argentina has experienced in recent memory. The previous records were 688 per cent in 1984, and 433.7 per cent in 1983.

The economic convulsions were beginning to have political and social dimensions.

On Friday, telephone workers staged a demonstration in front of the state company's headquarters to oppose the government's plan to sell the company.

The sale of Entel, the state carrier Aerolineas Argentinas, the state railroad and other public companies is the heart of President Menem's plans to reduce the national budget and encourage investment.

Meanwhile, critics said the latest stabilization plan will exacerbate an existing recession, and the low level of wages might touch off food riots and social unrest as salaries paid in late December ran out before the end of January.

Suzuki to launch car venture in Hungary Broad agreement signed

TOKYO, Jan 9, (UPI): Suzuki Motor Co., Japan's top motorcycle maker, said today it has agreed to launch a joint venture in Hungary to manufacture sub-compact passenger cars.

"A broad agreement has been reached on the project after rounds of negotiations held between both parties, and the project will be carried out with the understanding and co-operation of authorities concerned," the company said.

The company said the \$138 million project calls for production of Suzuki's 1,000 cc and 1,300 cc "swift" passenger car models in Esztergom, about 30 miles (40 km) north of Budapest.

Production will start in 1992 at an annual rate of 15,000 units. The volume will be increased to 50,000 units in three years and then to 100,000 units in the future, the company said.

The joint venture, capitalised at 10 billion yen (\$69 million), will be owned 50 per cent by Hungary's Autokonzern Rt. and 30 per cent by Suzuki. The remaining 20 per cent will be shared by C. Itoh and Co., a major Japanese trading firm, and the World Bank-affiliated International Finance Corp., the company said.

Autokonzern is a joint venture launched by 19 Hun-

garian companies, including banks and automotive makers to promote the car manufacturing project.

Suzuki, based in Shizuoka prefecture (state) in Central Japan, is one of major Japanese four-wheel vehicle and motorcycle makers. It supplies sub-compact cars to General Motors Corp. of the United States for sales under the GM brand.

The company said the new venture plans to raise the local content ratio to 50 per cent within one year and to 70 per cent thereafter.

The announcement was timed with a visit to Hungary by Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to study ways of Japan's assistance to the country's economic reconstruction.

Kaifu, who will also visit Poland on his current eight-nation tour, will offer a \$50 million grant to Hungary and \$150 million to Poland during the trip.

In addition, Japan has decided to provide a total of \$1 billion in low-interest loans to the two countries through the government-financed Export-Import Bank, government sources said.

Suzuki will be the third Japanese automaker to participate in automobile and engine production ventures in Eastern Europe.

E. Europeans seek radical changes in Comecon trade bloc

Hungary has already this week proposed setting up a market-oriented inner Comecon with Poland and Czechoslovakia, three countries that Deputy Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy said were at a similar stage of development.

Medgyessy, echoing the sentiments of several Comecon members, said the system of bloc trading had paralysed competition and held back technical development while creating poverty and shortages in member countries.

One Comecon practice which has caused particular resentment among the smaller members has been the "division of labour" whereby countries were expected to concentrate on some products and neglect others.

The calls for reform have been joined by the Soviet Union itself, which last month proposed that trade within the bloc should be put on a hard currency basis at real market prices.

But the East Europeans, for all their enthusiasm for market-oriented reforms, have reacted cautiously to the idea of ending a system which enabled them to buy Soviet oil and other raw materials in exchange for their often shoddy manufactured goods.

Warsaw Pact countries plus Cuba, Mongolia and Vietnam.

But the shift by several East bloc nations towards Western-style market systems as they moved last year to free themselves of communist domination has put a question mark over Comecon's future.

Andrei Lukonov, Bulgarian chairman of Comecon's executive committee, said members' trade among themselves had stagnated recently while their exchanges with Western and Third World countries had increased.

But Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov told journalists the organisation could avoid collapse "if it makes the right decisions."

Hungary's Medgyessy, whose proposals were reported by officials present at the talks, said the executive committee should focus on building a new system of co-operation and a working group should also be set up to draft a new concept for the bloc.

He suggested axing a series of committees dealing with particular areas of production, and proposed a Comecon summit next autumn to vote on new regulations — an idea which delegates said met a cool response.

SOFIA, Jan 9, (Reuters): East European leaders demanded radical changes in Comecon today as the trading bloc held its first high-level meeting since a wave of upheavals loosened the 40-year communist grip on the area.

Hungarian Prime Minister Miklos Nemeth told counterparts from nine other nations that Comecon must "change or die," and he made a series of proposals to put the organisation on a new basis.

Comecon was set up in 1949 as the economic arm of the Soviet Union's domination of Eastern Europe, but its trading system — a glorified form of barter — has become totally outmoded.

Bulgarian Prime Minister Georgi Atanasov, welcoming delegates to a two-day council session in Sofia's Palace of Culture, said Comecon had been losing momentum but pledged to help turn it into an efficient organisation.

"There have been deep changes in the Cmea (Comecon) countries and we hope this session will be the turning-point in the activities of the Cmea," he said.

Comecon, officially known as the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, groups the seven

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 3795.146	
Volume: 500 mil shs	
Yen exchange rate: 144.97	
Names of stock	
	CI
Advantest Corp	5330 +320
Ajinomoto	2830 -10
Alps Electric	2990 +40
Amada	2630 -20
Asahi Glass Ind	1210 -10
Asahi Glass	2370 +20
C. Itoh Co.	1200 -20
Canon Inc.	1850 +20
Casio Comp	1540 +10
Dai Nippon Printing	2560 +20
Daiichi Seiyaku	2780 +20
Dainippon Ph	2730 -80
Daishinku Corp	1750 -50
Epson	2140 -10
Fujitsu Ltd.	5180 -70
Fuji Photo	4500 +50
Fujitsu Ltd.	1510 -30
Hinachi Credit	2000 -0
Hinachi Koki	2050 -0
Hinachi Ltd.	1530 -20
Hinachi Metal	1690 -0
Honda Motor	1830 +20
Ito Yokado Co	4300 -60
Kajima Corp	2100 -20
Kawasaki H I	1060 -0
Kobe Cast Iron	1420 -10
Kokusai Elec.	3930 +100
Komatsu Ltd.	1310 -20
Kyocera Corp	970 +300
Matsushita	3490 -60
Matsushita Ind	3350 +170
Mats Electric	2370 -20
Mazda MC	990 -10
Mitsubishi Corp	1870 -40
Mitsubishi Estate	2390 -50
Mitsubishi H I	1150 -10
Mitsui R E	2800 -50
Mitsumi Corp	1960 -0
Mochose Pk	4290 -30
Mori Seiki Co.	4290 -30
NEC Corp	1920 -10
Nikon Corp	1600 +70

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange index (Jan 9)	
Pr. Close	Open
346	343.75
343	343
JK Svn	
62.50	65.50
65.50	65.50
151.25	147.50
85	84
200	200
200	200
79	77
110	110
187	187
180	177.50
112	112
95	95
18.35	18.35
1100	1080
250	255
245	245
60	56.25
153.50	153.50
1450	1470
1530	1530
55	54
54	55.50
17.75	18
54	50.50
18.25	18.25
107	107
107	107
225	225
69.50	68
107.50	102.50
73	73
247.50	240
246.25	246.25
78.50	78
92	92.50
93	93
1470	1470
61	61
62	62
70	70
129	128.50
595	555
123.50	123.50
114.25	113.75
150	148.75
21.25	21.25
730	730
30.50	31
60	60
65	65

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Middle East), Bahrain	
Ind Org	51.25
Ind Rayon	99.50
Indrel	213.75
50.50	52
99.50	101
210	228.75

Compiled by Kuwait-Inter-International Exchange Co.

Indian Video Roundup

Surviving against odds

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE portrayal of women in Hindi cinema has never been acceptable; Bombay filmmakers either exploit them or stick to stereotyped images showing them as a submissive doormats. But not so in *Main Zinda Hoon*, which takes an honest look at the survival of a woman against all odds.

Sudhir Mishra's film belongs to the so-called "art" movie category, and may not do well at the box office. But it is one film that does justice to a woman's dignity and honour, encouraging her to emerge as an individual with a mind and personality of her own.

Beena's story could be that of any middle class woman who is trapped in a social system that

first traps her and then exploits her, and when the time comes for a showdown, she is left to fend for herself.

It is a scathing social comment on the dilemma of some women, who are expected to be providers but never provided for; they must serve but demand nothing. Main Zinda Hoon takes a sympathetic view of women in such situations and, for once, does justice to their resilience and strength.

Finely sketched, it opens with Beena's marriage to Alok (Alok Nath), a clerk in an office in Bombay. The ceremony symbolises the "burden of responsibility." For Beena, it is the start of a fresh life; for Alok, it means he has to feed another mouth. He resents his wife, thrust on him by his parents.

In subtle ways, it shows the

weaknesses in the system, for instance Alok's marriage against his wishes, the outcome of a culture that instils obedience by suppressing individuality.

Beena's loveless marriage, in which her husband Alok tells her to ask his parents to explain his resentment towards her, was doomed from the start.

And when Alok vanishes, Beena is expected to take over where her husband left off. Her economic independence gives her a degree of respect in her new home. She pays the bills and buys her dignity.

To maintain the status quo, her in-laws also agree to her "remarriage," provided her second husband lives with them. It is at this point that the ruthless, self-protective attitude of the society hits us with ferocity as we watch Beena's helplessness and despair. Alok reappears in her life. Once he comes back, her in-laws turn against her—and Alok expects her to accept him as her husband.

In one of the most memorable images in the film, we are shown the undignified betrayal of a woman's desires and dreams, with tragic consequences. It is only when Beena recovers the strength to carry on that our hope in humanity is rekindled.

It is one of the finest films on women's issues, sincerely seeking justice where none exists. It is touching, and deeply moving cinema, and at times depressing. Deepthi Naval as Beena excels in her role with ample support from Alok Nath and Pankaj Kapoor who play the two men in her life.

Souten ki Beti

Sawan Kumar Tak's *Souten ki Beti* is said to be a "women's liberation" movie, whatever that means. In short, it propagates bigamy, finally deciding that monogamy is the accepted norm.

Why? Tak toys with an idea to get justice for the "other woman," in this instance first love, Radha (Rekha) in Shyam's (Jeetendra) life. If Shyam truly

loved Radha, why did he marry Rukmini (Jaya Prada)? Tak's flimsy explanation is unacceptable.

Shyam is that male creature who can love many women at the same time. So he loves both Radha and Rukmini. At first, he goes overboard at wooing Radha but does not hesitate to drop her like a hot potato when duty calls.

He belongs to that self-centred species who treat women like rubber balls, bouncing them at will to suit their fancy. Now, in this scenario comes Rukmini, who feels that Radha must get justice.

Radha belongs to that chapter in his life that he'd rather close; but Rukmini won't let him. Tak tries to put across this point of view with disastrous results on our psyche.

First, Radha's credentials are soiled. As an air hostess, she is shown as a person who can fall prey to lust. Did Radha succumb to lust or love? The issue is reduced to mimicry, and all one can do is laugh at the pea brains who make mockery of a serious matter.

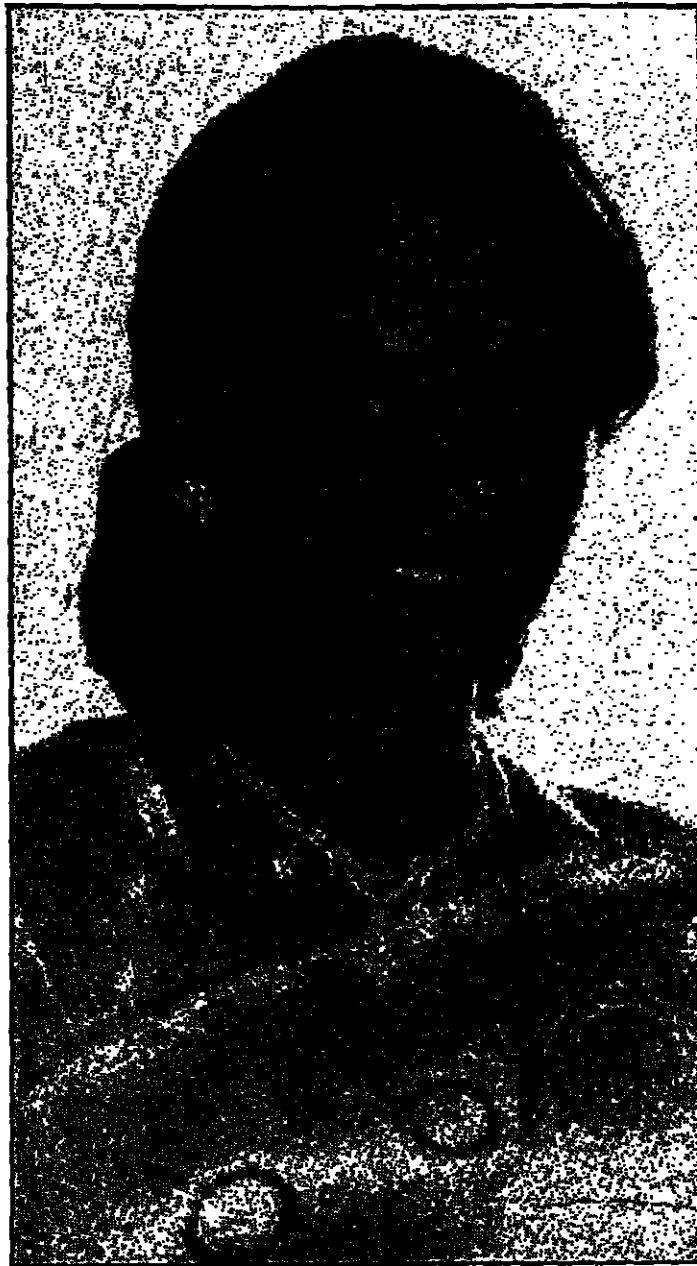
Sawan Kumar loves to deal in the implausible, and, therefore, promotes bigamy.

Rukmini's vision of justice is incredible, at least in the Indian milieu where social hypocrisy is the norm; and bigamy illegal.

Sawan Kumar can't argue with the law and makes a pathetic attempt to get justice for Radha, and when he fails, he succumbs to the rule — monogamy. To make matters worse, the problem spills over to the second generation: One must thank Sawan Kumar for small mercies, like not including the third or a fourth generation into the film.

Souten ki Beti was held up by the Indian censors for a long time; one feels they should have held on to it.

Both Radha and Rukmini are victims. As Rukmini tells Radha "You succumbed to his (Shyam's) lust." Did she? Or was she cheated by a selfish individual who claimed to love?



Jaya Prada — a victim.

And Rukmini? She is an outsider.

An appropriate title for this film would have been *Patni ka Balidan*.

The above films are by courtesy of Athar Video, Main St., Farwan-ya, tel: 471-2900; and Falcon Video, Al-Basra.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING PERIOD

9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
9.40 Sabah Al Kher, news
9.50 Cartoon serial
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite
10.30 Toyour Billa Ajneha: Arabic serial (part 7)
11.45 Al Waad: Beduin weekly serial (part 2)
12.25 Sabah Al Kher, news
12.35 Holy Quran and closedown

EVENING PERIOD

4.00 Opening and Holy Quran
4.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.45 Bercen: Cartoon serial
5.15 Spencer: Arabic children's serial (part 2)
5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
6.00 Imam Mohammed Abdo: Historical Serial (part 11)
7.00 Varieties
7.15 Popular arts: Local programme, presented and prepared by Hmoud Al Baghli
7.45 Antique and Islamic Arts: cultural programme (part 2)
8.30 Good Evening and local news
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Television Network: local variety programme, prepared and presented by Abdul Rahman Al Najjar
10.15 Ghadan Tushrogo Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 9)
11.15 Hob Wa Marah Wa Shabab: Arabic feature film, starring Imad Hamdi, Nadeya Lutfi, Yousif Shaa-

han, and Fuad Al Mohandes
12.45 News summary
12.50 The World Today via Satellite
1.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Scooby Doo. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Danger Bay "Catch a Falling Star". Jonah and Nicolaie are rock climbing when Jonah videotapes a falling meteor. Maria Lvanova, a local astronomer, agrees to help find the scientific treasure.
7.00 The International Out-dorman. Action-packed out-door, live-action adventures that circles the Globe, captivating the universal family audience.
7.30 Growing Pains "Family Ties. How Mike is going to manage living without the help of his parents and without committing errors."
8.00 News in English
8.30 Top of the Hill. Tom Bell is kidnapped by Falcon's gang who starts negotiating for the release of Dickson... certain Congressmen interfere in this case.
9.30 The Science Edition
10.00 Cine Club presented by Farouk Abdulaziz
12.00 News in Brief
12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
White Ghost
Al Hama
Les Fugitives
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Aakhri Muqabala
Fahad
Arabic film

Al Jahra
The Hindenburg
Granada
Arabic film
Salafikhat
Shock Troop
Jeeb
The Lawless Land
Ahmadi Drive-In
Arabic film



Babilin



Sabagkit

CHRE designation to two employees

EAST LANSING, Michigan, Jan 9. Romulo D. Babilin, training director, Kuwait International Hotel, Edgardo A. Sabagkit, training officer, Kuwait International Hotel, have been awarded the Certified Human Resource Executive designation by the Educational Institute of the American Hotel and Motel Association (AH&MA). This announcement comes from John J. Clark, Jr., chairman of the Institute's Certification Commission and Dean, School of Hotel Administration, Cornell University.

The Certified Human Resources Executive is one of the highest designations offered by the Educational Institute. To qualify for this distinction, hotel/motel executives must demonstrate academic achievement and industry achievement.

The Educational Institute is a nonprofit educational foundation of the American Hotel and Motel Association. It provides continuing learning opportunities for lodging industry employees at all levels who wish to advance their careers through study and certification.

Raza Ali in Kuwait

RAZA ALI, grandson of "Padma Bhoshan" Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan, and son of Ustad Munawwar Ali Khan exponent of Patiala Gharana, will be visiting Kuwait from Jan 10-26, 1990.

Raza Ali, the music director and singer of classical, semi-classical and ghazals. He sings equally good in Urdu, Punjabi and Bengali.

During his stay he would perform in limited private programmes among his friends and music lovers in Kuwait.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Baghdad Pharmacy
Abdulla Al Salem Street
Lula Pharmacy
Ahmed Al Jaber Street
Hawafi and Nagra
Al Naser Pharmacy
Tunis Street
Salmiya and Rumaythiya
Sima Pharmacy
Baghdad Street

Fahad and Ahmadi
Adel Pharmacy
Al Awadi Building
Khatat
Al Ahram Pharmacy
Block 2
Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Duabul Al Khozai Street

SPORTS

Ballet
STEPS Ballet School commences its new term. Jan 1990 registration is now open. Sat-Wed in the Kuwait English School, Salwa from 3-7 pm. Call 538481 between 9-12 noon for more information. (For girls only 4-15 years).

Daniella Dart Tournament 1990
The Dart Tournament for Darts will take place at the Gazette Club on Friday, Jan 26, starting at 2pm (expected to finish at 8 pm). It is a family event featuring separate junior tournament, so don't leave the children at home. For further details and registration, please call Henrik Licht — 3727688 ext 246; or Bjorne Rasmussen — 3720137 before Saturday, Jan 20.

PRAYERS

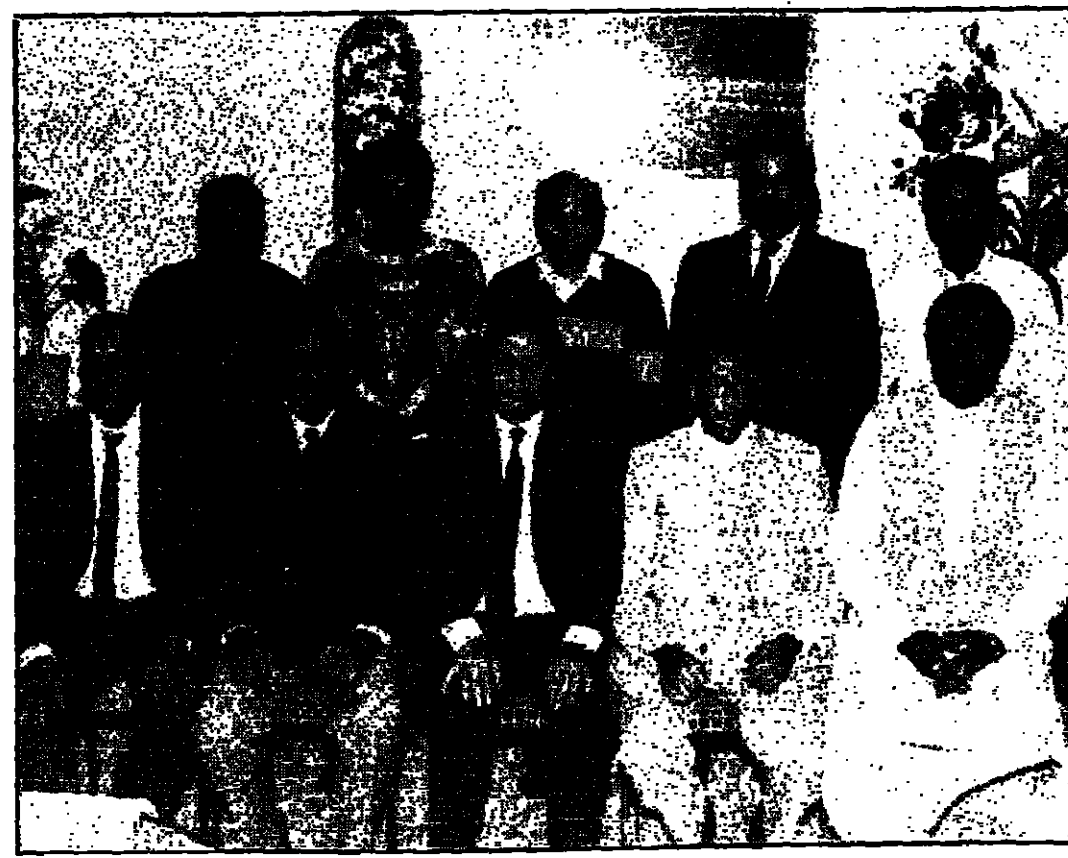
Fajr	5.20 am
Zohr	11.55
Asr	2.48 pm
Maghreb	5.07
Isha	6.29

Konkani Drama

THE New Goans Overseas Association is pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Somsarant Astana Dasi" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, Felcy, Josephine, Betty Alvares, Tita, Junior Rod, Carlos, Rosario Dias, C. D'Silva, John de Parra and Menino de Bandar.

Contact
THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held on January 13 at 10 am at the Messilah Beach Hotel. Their chef will be giving a demonstration. Newcomers welcome. For further information call 5388105 or 4874513.

The People's Trust Club
The People's Trust Club's get together which was to be held on Jan 11 has been cancelled. The club apologises for any inconvenience.



PPC cancel celebrations

The Pakistan People's Club (PPC) has cancelled a planned celebration due to the train accident in Pakistan.

At an emergency meeting, held at the home of Rafiq Ahmed Mirza, the PPC decided to cancel a proposed music programme to celebrate the 62nd birth anniversary of former Pakistani prime minister Z. A. Bhutto on Jan 12. Instead of a musical programme, the PPC will celebrate the birth anniversary at a simple ceremony.

The meeting was presided over by PPC president Dr Riaz Ahmed Manesar and attended by a large number of members. Messages of condolence were sent to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Senior Minister Begum Nusrat Bhutto and Railway Minister Zafar Ali Laghari.

Some PPC members who attended the emergency meeting.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It will be given during the period Feb 11 - March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am or evening sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration maybe made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Photography and Oil painting classes
OIL painting classes beginning 15 January.
Photography classes beginning 16 and 17 January.
8 week course, once a week 4.30 to 7.30 pm. For further details please call Ann Eid Tel. 2426135 or Yasmeen 5326833.

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23 until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Hobby centre
A NEW 8 week course in Jewellery and Design making — For more details call: Telephone: 5618847 or 5317354.

SOCIAL

The Carnival Nite
"THE Entertainers" proudly announces for the first time in Kuwait "The Carnival Nite" which is scheduled to be held at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel's Le Mirage main ballroom on 22nd February 1990. Be sure to be there with all your glit and glamorous costumes to witness this traditional event. Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers will rhythm out their best musical performance for this occasion.

Rothmans Gold Cup Finals
THE finals of the Rothman's Gold Cup Football Tournament organised by Salcate United Sports Centre, the sports wing of the weekend club, will take place on the Sour Grounds on Friday, January 12 at 9.00 am. Between Incredible Sports Club and Goan Sporting Aref Essa, manager of Rothmans, will give away the trophies. All are cordially invited.

British Council

THE Scarlet and the Black — 137 min. Saturday, 13 Jan and Sunday, 14 Jan at 6.30 pm.

This is the remarkable story of an Irish priest, Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty who founded an organisation to help escaping Allied prisoners of war. Features a brilliant cast: Gregory Peck, Christopher Plummer and John Gielgud. Admission is free but please telephone to reserve seats: 2515512, 2533204, 2533227.

Study the Humanities and Social Sciences in Britain. For more information on degree-level studies of these subjects, please visit The British Council Education Office on Monday and Tuesday, 15 and 16 January, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm and 5.00 to 8.00 pm.

Twin Centre

"TWIN Centre is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual 9-a-side Inter Village Football Tournament which will be held on the Sour grounds, Kuwait City, beginning March 27/28th 1990. For further information please contact organisers — 2441860 Casimiro.

Like a Hurricane
SEVENTH Sky's upcoming Rock concert at Al Andalus cinema on 15th & 16th February, 1990. We are looking for voluntary helpers and also an additional male & female vocalist. Ring 5748476 or 2543219.

11 Annual one act Play Competition

INDIAN Arts Circle announces the 11 Annual One Act Play Competition to be held during Eid holidays in April, 1990. The competition is open to Plays in any Indian language including English. Awards shall include Best Play (1st, 2nd & 3rd), Best Director, Best Actor & Actress, Best Child Actor, Best Stage Setting and Best Acting Performance from cast team. Registration form with rules & regulations are available from Indian Arts Circle office at Funaites. Last date of submitting registration form with required details is 28th February, 1990.

Please contact IAC office (Tel: 3904817) for further details. All Indian associations engaged in theatrical activities are requested to join.

Saaz Aur Aawaz

FEB 2: Saaz Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisse Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

BLONDIE

By Dean Young & Stan Drake



THE HORRIBLE

By Dan Finkel



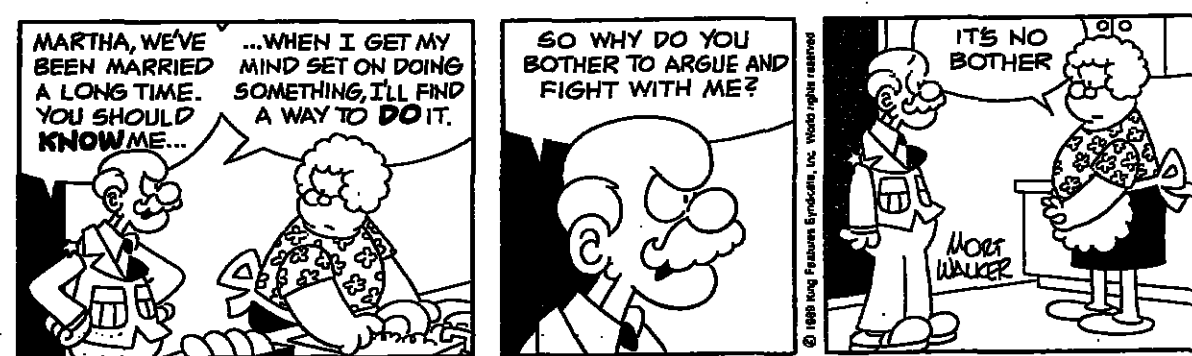
NORTH CRUM

By Phil Hous



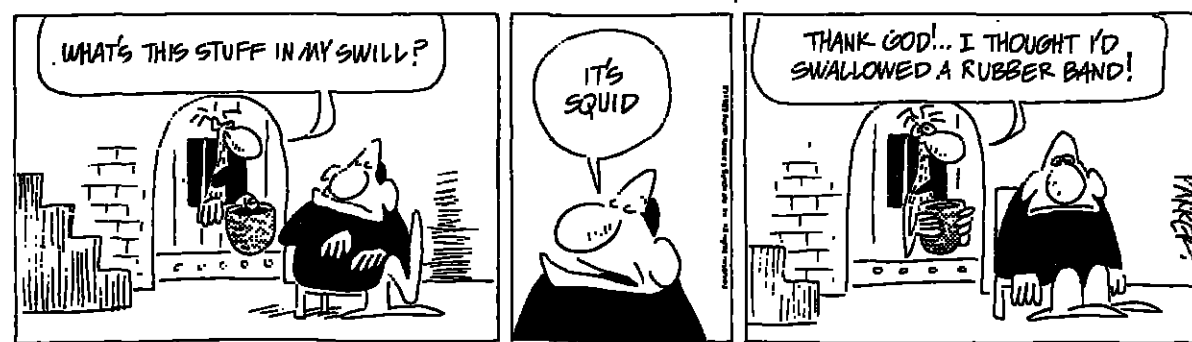
LITTLE BAILEY

By Dan Finkel



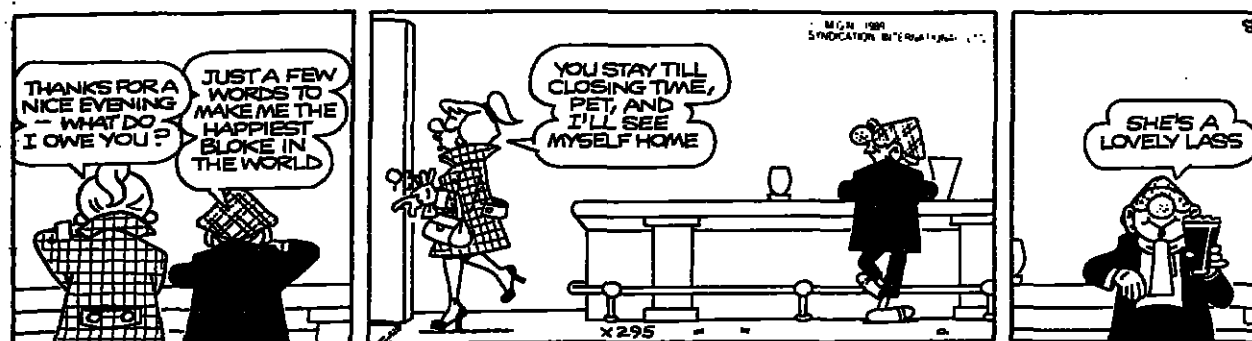
EYE HARD OF ID

By Dan Finkel & Jimmy Hart



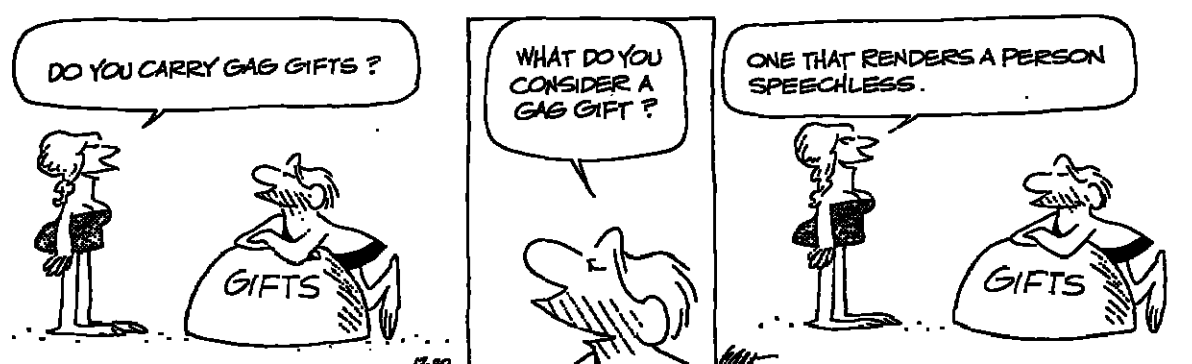
ANDY CAPP

By Dan Finkel



C

By Johnny Hart

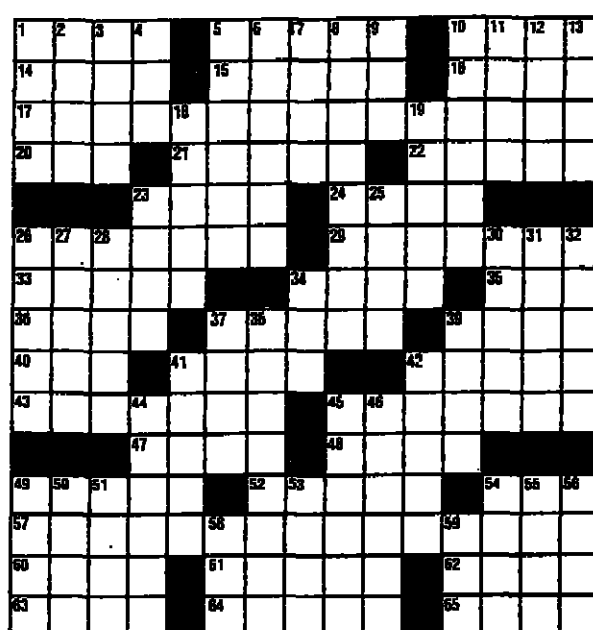


THE MAN

By Dan Finkel & J. Shul



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Indulge
 - 10 Amusingly affected
 - 14 Aweath's opposite
 - 15 Word with glow or horn
 - 16 Length x width
 - 17 Vermont resort
 - 20 "Tiny Alice" author
 - 22 They mar escutcheons
 - 23 Dear, in Köln
 - 24 Soap ingredient
 - 25 "Clair de lune" composer
 - 29 Downpour
 - 33 Mountain ridge
 - 34 Gab or song follower
 - 35 Printemps month
 - 36 Stevens of opera fame
 - 37 "Three little" —
 - 39 Successor of a sort
 - 40 Author Umberto —
 - 41 Rapid
 - 42 Kitchen device
 - 43 Strongmen
 - 45 Modified
 - 47 Fear or fig
 - 48 New Mexico resort
 - 49 Young porker
 - 52 Took hold
 - 54 Strange gadget
 - 57 Massachusetts resort
 - 60 Seine feeder
 - 61 France's longest river
 - 62 Jeune
 - 63 Large, in Paris
 - 64 Ancient
- DOWN**
- 1 Kingdom of Burgundy
 - 2 Former sr.
 - 3 Pleads
 - 4 Verbal assent
 - 5 Martens' kin
 - 6 Friendly
 - 7 Nave's neighbor
 - 8 Prepared leftovers
 - 9 Part of SASE
 - 10 Barn dance
 - 11 A Guthrie
 - 12 Athletic event
 - 13 Treats
 - 18 Poker play
 - 19 Cut short, as a space mission
 - 23 Pear-shaped instrument
 - 25 Profit's companion
 - 26 Challenges
 - 27 Author Jong
 - 28 Sweeper for Cinderella
 - 30 Moslem ruler
 - 31 Lacking worldly wisdom
 - 32 Worn-out
 - 34 In shape
 - 37 Leo's pride
 - 38 Town official
 - 39 Scurries
 - 41 Hence follower
 - 42 Word with cobble or corner
 - 44 Part of USA
 - 45 Garb
 - 46 Singer Frankie and others
 - 49 Weather word
 - 50 Mod musical
 - 51 Roughly
 - 53 Minded
 - 54 O'Hara home
 - 55 — go brag
 - 56 MacDonald co-star
 - 58 Carte words
 - 59 Beantown Hall of Famer

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

KOREA DISC CELL
APORT ECTO OBIA
TABLESPOON NOES
ELSE OONA OSARE
ROT PATER
BOSTON STUKA
UBOAT OMAR BALE
DOUBLEBARRELLED
SELL CELT BEING
ETHYL COSTAE
PONCHO PAN
ECOLE STAR POST
ARNO ROUNDTABLE
LEET AUNT SLOAN
SASH TRIAS FELTS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

A LESSON WELL LEARNED

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

♠ K 10 9
♥ A 10 9 8 2
♦ A 3 2
♣ K Q

WEST

♠ J 2
♥ K 4 3
♦ J 8 7 5 4
♣ 7 5 2

EAST

♠ 7 5
♥ Q 6
♦ K Q 9 6
♣ J 10 9 6 4

SOUTH

♠ A Q 8 6 4 3
♥ J 7 5
♦ 10
♣ A 8 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♠	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♠	Pass
4 ♠	Pass	4 ♦	Pass
5 ♠	Pass	4 NT	Pass
6 ♠	Pass	6 ♠	Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♦

We have remarked before on how often lesson hands turn up at the table. This hand is from the recent Fall North American Championships.

North-South were playing two-over-one responses as a game force. Thus, North's raise to three spades showed a good hand—a jump to four spades would have been a sign-

off. After East's lead-directing double of four diamonds, South's redouble showed second-round control—either the king or a singleton. Four no trump, by partnership agreement, asked South for extra values, and five spades denied any North, however, had enough to go on to slam.

The contract hinges on losing only one heart trick—something that can be accomplished with two finesses if West has at least one of the missing honors. That was destined to succeed as the cards lie, but declarer, Gary Hann of Ann Arbor, Mich., found the textbook line to guarantee his contract regardless of how the hearts were divided.

The opening diamond lead was taken with the ace and trumps were drawn in two rounds. Dummy's club honors served as entries for two diamond ruffs, and the ace of clubs was cashed to complete stripping the minor suits from both declarer's hand and the table.

With the groundwork laid, declarer simply led a heart and inserted the board's nine. East could win, but he would then either have to yield a ruff-and-suff by returning a minor, enabling declarer to get rid of a heart, or lead a heart into dummy's tenace. Either way, declarer could claim his slam.



"Make sure you hand that pass back before you leave the building."

YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20

You will be able to make good and rapid progress. However, you must not neglect something that you do not like doing but has to be done. Do not give your partner any cause for concern. Be responsive.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20

You will find it easier to adapt to the circumstances. However, you must avoid trying to find an easy way out, there isn't one. Save, but not by cutting down on essentials or sacrificing quality. Be less dependent.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20

Try to show just a little more enthusiasm. Others will not be as appreciative as you think they ought to be. Never mind, you know you have done well. Be reliable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20

Try to make yourself into a pleasant companion — if you are not one already! You should look at the positive side of things. Ensure you get all the rest you need and take regular exercise too. Be trustworthy.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21

Avoid overstraining yourself but do not just sit back and admire your handiwork. Make sure you do not fall down on your commitments. You will now get the hang of something you have been seeking to learn for some time. Be sincere.



Virgo
Aug. 22 - Sept. 22

You have good reason to be pleased with yourself, but none too be complacent. Take your commitments with the seriousness they deserve and require. Make sure you do not lose touch with an old friend. Be sensible.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23

Do not expect to have everything your way. If you do you will be disappointed. Something you had been hoping would not happen will. However it will not be as bad as it could well have been. Be tolerant.



Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You are sailing in the right direction but there is not much wind in your sails just now. However if you show determination you will get there in the end. Make sure you do not strain yourself, try to improve your sitting position. Be honourable.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 22

The prospects are good but you will have to work hard — nothing just comes your way. And make sure you do not spend as if you are made of money unless you are one of the fortunate few who are! Act fast if you do not want to miss an opportunity. Be prudent.



Capricorn
Dec. 23 - Jan. 19

Not everything is to your liking but you know how to cope with what has to be. You should not allow your emotions to get out of hand nor should you repress them. Your lucky numbers are 23 and 43.



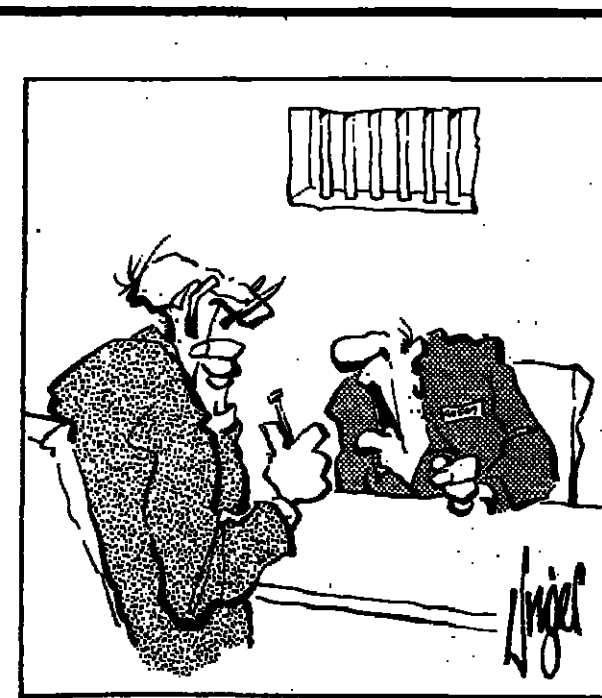
Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19

You will be more inclined towards change but should avoid change just for the sake of change. Show your partner how much you love him. If you expect less than you deserve you may even get more than you do. Be moderate.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20

You should not spend too much time doing things that are pointless. However you should not give up too soon. And make sure you do not accumulate things that you will never use again. Be moderate.



"How are you gonna defend me if you can't stop laughing?"



"I'm gonna pay my electricity bill while I'm here."

Thought to be fit for Chinese-dominated society

Singapore lures skilled Hong Kong workers

SINGAPORE, (AP): Worried about a labour shortage caused by the emigration of skilled professionals, Singapore is wooing educated workers from Hong Kong who fear for their own future when the British colony reverts to China in 1997.

Hong Kong workers are thought to be a natural fit for Singapore's Chinese-dominated society. Language would not be a barrier and Singapore needs white-collar workers.

Many from Hong Kong have come already to live or to just to look around. Real estate brokers say Hong Kong citizens like Singapore's lush greenery and relative quiet, both in short supply where they come from. They also like the prices of condominiums and houses, usually far cheaper than in Hong Kong.

Some of the Hong Kong visitors are given carefully conducted "emigration tours" to meet government officials, bankers and others who could be helpful if it becomes necessary to find homes in a new land.

Concern about Hong Kong's future under Chinese control began growing in 1984 after Beijing and London signed the joint declaration on reversion to Chinese rule. Confidence plummeted last June following China's violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators in Tiananmen Square.

In a parallel development, affluent and orderly Singapore has seen thousands of its own skilled, educated professionals leaving for better job opportunities and less stressful conditions abroad.

In 1988 alone, more than 4,700 families from what Prime Minister Lee Yew called "our top 25 per cent" left the country, most for Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States.

Singapore was forced to reconsider some restrictive immigration policies intended to

protect its select jobs and, at the same time, recruit the skilled migrants who had not considered Singapore before.

The prime minister in 1987 said his country came "a poor third" after Canada and Australia in attracting such educated labour from Hong Kong. Before the China crackdown, attempts by Singapore to lure college graduates, professionals and business people from Hong Kong — the latter with the equivalent of \$510,000 in capital — met with little success.

Those leaving Hong Kong simply found greater opportunities in places other than Singapore, many were joining relatives in other countries.

That changed within weeks of the Tiananmen Square bloodshed, when Lee's government relaxed immigration restrictions on certain Hong Kong workers and their families, hoping to attract those with money or education or both.

Singapore approved a new quota permitting immigration of up to 25,000 Hong Kong workers who had at least a high school education, five years of on-the-job experience and an income of at least \$770 per month.

Within hours of the announcement, some 10,000 hopefuls swarmed Singapore's consulate in Hong Kong, reflecting the tension over China's crackdown.

The new law allows Hong Kong workers to work in Singapore for as long as five years before declaring legal residence, and after that lets them extend their non-resident stay for another five years, giving them a chance to watch post-1997 Hong Kong before deciding whether to return.

Canada, Australia and other destinations require them to move in promptly. Britain itself maintains many immigration restrictions.

However, Hong Kong newspapers and some officials were alarmed as they watched an already serious brain drain worsen. They criticized what they saw as Singapore's opportunism in taking advantage of the colony's trouble.

The two have long been rivals as regional trade, finance and communications hubs. Both are free-trade ports, have limited space and no natural resources except strategic locations and the skill of their peoples.

George Yeo, Singapore's minister of state for foreign affairs, denied that his government acted to make things more difficult for Hong Kong or China.

If those in Hong Kong intended to leave anyway, he said, it would be better to keep them in the region so their talent would not be lost to North America or Australia.

One Singapore analyst said the wave of migration even might allow Singapore to

attract the skilled entrepreneurs who had moved to Hong Kong 41 years ago from Shanghai, before it fell to the communists. Their activities in Hong Kong had helped turn the British colony into an economic dynamo.

Mah Bow Tan, the Minister of State for Trade and Industry, said Singapore expects each skilled Hong Kong immigrant to add an average of 80,000 to 100,000 dollars (\$42,105 to \$52,632) to Singapore's economy. Using the lower figure, Mah said 25,000 migrants would add 2 billion dollars (\$1.05 billion), about 4 per cent of the country's gross domestic product.

But not everyone awaits the newcomers with open arms.

"Our workers certainly do not want a flood of foreigners to come here and steal their jobs," said Chiam See Tong, secretary-general of the Singapore Democratic Party.

On to power show

SA musicians sing about sufferings

MAMELODI, South Africa. (Reuters): Ray Phiri believes the time has come for South African musicians to sing about the political tide sweeping the country, promoting politics to a form of power show business.

Phiri, one of the few successful musicians to have popularised South African music overseas, said it did not take long to realise he had to sing about the suffering caused by apartheid rather than love or romance.

"Many artists still sing about failed or successful romances. So I had to break the ice and sing about something that is destroying my country, apartheid," Phiri said.

"As a musician, if you first do not deal with the realities of your country, you cannot deal with anything else," he told Reuters during the interval of a concert with his band Stimela.

Thousands of South African music lovers, mostly blacks, flock to the country's main stadiums at weekends to listen to groups like Stimela.

They hoot, sing and dance, attracted by the exuberant rhythm and blues; Mbanga (township jive) and bawdy street language of new songs, many carrying a hard-hitting political message.

Phiri and other musicians of international repute such as Sipho Mabuse and Johnny Clegg believe artists should speak out because emergency laws ban so-called subversive statements and gag opposition leaders.

Their music depicts the black anti-apartheid struggle, detention and torture, right-wing

extremists, police informers and other sensitive issues.

Pretoria sometimes steps in to ban "resistance art which creates an emotionally explosive situation, a spirit of revolt and actors engaged in seditious theatre."

But although the government may ban a song from state radio stations, it gets aired at live shows, meaning that the curtain is never brought down on the stage of musical protest.

"I marry the two — politics and music. There is a part of me that lives in my own community amid the pain and suffering of our children who want to be free and who are prepared to fight for their freedom," Phiri said.

Phiri said Stimela's latest album, "Trouble In The Land Of Plenty" and "The Unfinished Story" search for the truth in the confusion of today's South Africa.

"The people know the answers. Only some extra effort, some creativity and more love and unity is needed to clear up the mess," he said.

Phiri is proud to be among locals who have helped to popularise South African music abroad.

He teamed up with US superstar Paul Simon on the world tour to promote the album "Graceland", one of the major factors in whetting the international appetite for South African music.

Another highlight was the French Zoulo tour of France last year in which Phiri, along with dozens of South African musicians, wowed French audiences.

One enthusiastic French newspaper, wrote: "Stimela is one of the greatest groups on the planet."

"It was an educating experience. It was the best thing that could happen to South African music, because when you play alongside someone like Paul Simon, you know the world is going to listen," Phiri said.

"I don't have any political inclinations, but I think that growing up in a society that is not really sane, you grow up understanding politics but not knowing it," he added.

Another South African artist, Sipho Mabuse, sees a gradual departure from highly forgettable "bubblegum" music to sounds with a heavy political message.

Mabuse was banned by the state South African Broadcasting Corporation after recording a song in praise of jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela.

"I had been subtly doing some political stuff, but not as radical as now. I was a pacifist then and most of my music was moderate stuff," Mabuse said.

Johnny Clegg, a Zulu-speaking white musician who is perhaps South Africa's best-known musician abroad, believes artists should sing about their own experiences rather than mouth bland international lyrics.

Clegg last year spent months touring. Now he and his band Savuka have returned for a brief tour of South Africa, where his appeals for racial unity seem to be hitting home more than ever before.



Up above the world

Austria's Andreas Falder enjoys a free view of the city of Innsbruck as he practises for a ski-jumping competition. (Reuters wirephoto)

Spanish men scolded

Not breaking enough plates

MADRID, (Reuters): The Spanish government has scolded the country's male population for not breaking enough plates.

It is nothing to do with another exotic Spanish fiesta, but an advertising campaign aimed at smashing "machismo" men's traditional contempt for housework and dragging them into the kitchen.

The campaign presents a smiling young man in spectacles and a striped shirt and praises him as a liberal professional, a modern and responsible father and a good "companion" — the perfect example of the post-Franco "progre" (progressive).

"Furthermore, he has never broken a plate in his life," it continues.

"Of course. Because like most men, when he gets home he is used to doing nothing." The advertisement then urges men to "knock down and share the housework."

"Smash inequality," it ends, with the image of a plate slowly smashing to pieces.

The campaign on television and radio and in the he-man domain of sports papers was the response of the government's Institute for Women to a study showing that despite 15 years of democracy and nearly a decade of socialism, Spanish men have not shaken off "machismo."

woman's looks in the street or office that range from the picturesque to the obscene.

"Now men shouting 'piropos' are likely to meet with a blunt reply," said Paloma.

Despite her more aggressive stance, the modern Spanish working woman is likely to earn on average 22.6 per cent less pay than a man doing the same job, according to Economy Ministry figures, while one third of Spain's housewives spend a grueling 10 hours or more each day on domestic chores.

Younger, more educated men whose wives have jobs tend to be more helpful around the house but Mary, a British woman married to a Spaniard, said her husband did nothing at home despite the fact that both had full-time jobs.

"It's a very Spanish thing and I think the mothers are to blame," said Mary. "They bring up their sons without teaching them to do housework and the men think it's not their duty."

Men who don't shrink from tying on an apron often brave the contempt of other men. One 21-year-old woman married to a Pole said her father and brothers laughed at her husband when he washed dishes.

"If you want to see machismo, come to my house," she said.

Pedro, a 61-year-old clerk, holds views that are progressive for men of his age-group, but he readily admits he has never ironed a shirt in his life.

"Spanish men of my generation aren't used to doing housework," he said. "A man might decide on a whim to cook Sunday lunch, but only if he enjoys cooking."

But Pedro believed that for many Spaniards, machismo was just bravado.

"Go to their houses and you'll see them scrubbing the floor with one hand and holding the baby in the other," he said. "Spanish men tend to talk a lot."

The Iberian male takes his prejudices to bed with him, according to the study. A small sample maintained that one woman could not satisfy a man's sexual appetite — hence the Spanish tradition of "la querida" (the lover).

More than one third believed there could be no friendship between a man and a woman without sex and 44 per cent said a couple's sexual problems were always the fault of the woman.

Despite signs that the Iberian male would like to relax his he-man pose, with most agreeing they should learn to show their feelings, most are still too "macho" to soften up.

"Spanish men are quite interesting at first, but the novelty value soon wears off," said Mary. "Some are bad and the others are worse."

Have a memory jog through the world of films

It's winter and all the eyes turn to Oscar

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): The 1980s were memorable for motion picture and television fans, but fame is fleeting and a memory jog might be a good way start the 1990s.

Herewith a quiz for knowledgeable and not-so-knowledgeable filmgoers and couch potatoes (answer at end of test).

1. Who bought Columbia Pictures?

A. Marvin Davis, B. Ted Turner, C. Sony Corp.

2. Name Warren Beatty's girlfriend's ex-husband.

A. Marlon Brando, B. Sean Penn, C. Jimmy Bakker

3. Which movie won the 1985 Oscar for best picture?

A. Out of Africa, B. Platoon, C. Amadeus

4. Who starred in the title role of "The Elephant Man"?

A. William Hurt, B. John Hurt, C. John Heard

5. Which actress cried at the Oscars, "you like me"?

A. Vanessa Redgrave, B. Sally Field, C. Shirley MacLaine

6. Who starred in the biggest bomb of the 1980s?

A. Sylvester Stallone and Dolly Parton, B. Kris Kristofferson and Christopher Walken, C. Warren Beatty and Dustin Hoffman

7. Which 1980s TV show won

the most No. 1 ratings?

A. "The Cosby Show", B. "Family Ties", C. "Ally"

8. Who played the most talked-about sex scene?

A. Kathleen Turner, B. Michelle Pfeiffer, C. Rob Lowe

9. What male star's films grossed the most in the '80s?

A. Eddie Murphy, B. Sylvester Stallone, C. Harrison Ford

10. Which actor lost out on playing James Bond?

A. Woody Allen, B. Pierce Brosnan, C. Jeremy Irons

11. Which actress did not appear undressed in Playboy?

A. Madonna, B. Roseanne Barr, C. Linda Evans

12. Which actress was divorced?

A. Jane Fonda, B. Meredith Baxter, C. Debra Winger

13. Which unmarried actress had a baby?

A. Goldie Hawn, B. Jessica Lange, C. Farrah Fawcett

14. Name the only actress nominated for four Oscars in the 1980s.

A. Jessica Lange, B. Meryl Streep, C. Sissy Spacek

15. Which divorced stars remarried in the decade?

A. Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith, B. Sylvester Stallone and Brigitte Nielsen, C. Barbra Streisand and Elliott Gould

16. Who won best actress Oscar in 1988?

A. Glenn Close, B. Sigourney Weaver, C. Jody Foster

17. Who played the title role in "Candide"?

A. F. Murray Abraham, B. Ben Kingsley, C. Michael J. Fox

18. Which film was the biggest money-maker of the decade?

A. E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, B. Batman, C. Surf Nazis Must Die

19. Which actor did Gregory Peck convey in "Old Gringo"?

A. Bert Convey, B. Burt Lancaster, C. Burt Reynolds

20. Johnny Carson feuded with which comedian?

A. Joan Rivers, B. Phyllis Diller, C. Bette Midler

21. Which star served jail time?

A. Zsa Zsa Gabor, B. Sean Penn, C. Bruce Willis

22. Which star did not have to worry about a palimony suit?

A. Clint Eastwood, B. Michael Jackson, C. William Hurt

23. Name the celeb elected mayor of Palm Springs.

A. Chevy Chase, B. Andy Griffith, C. Sonny Bono

24. Who banned nuclear weapons in Malibu?

A. Martin Sheen, B. Charlie Sheen, C. Emilio Estevez

25. Which deceased film star became the subject of a movie?

A. Warner Oland, B. John Belushi, C. Elmo Lincoln

26. Who was the eldest working star of the 80s?

A. Bob Hope, B. Don Ameche, C. George Burns

27. Which actor did not play a prize fighter?

A. Sylvester Stallone, B. Robert DeNiro, C. Arnold Schwarzenegger

28. Which actor was twice nominated for best supporting

actors in the civil war.

Happily, Batman, Indiana Jones And The Last Crusade, Lethal Weapon 2, Honey I Shrunk The Kids, Ghostbusters II and Look Who's Talking — the year's box-office champions — failed to make any of the critics' lists and none of them are good bets to win Oscar nominations for best picture.

Golden Globe nominations, divided into two categories — drama and comedy — went to Born On The Fourth Of July, Crimes And Misdemeanors, Dead Poets Society, Do The Right Thing, Glory, Driving Miss Daisy, The Little Mermaid, Shirley Valentine, The War Of The Roses and When Harry Met Sally.

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Coke tracks down original singers for remake of 1971 ad

NEW YORK, (UPI): Linda Higson Neary, who starred in Coca-Cola Co.'s "I'd Like To Buy The World A Coke" commercial nearly 20 years ago, was nowhere to be found when the company decided to remake the spot for a Super Bowl debut this year.

Although Coke's advertising agency, McCann-Erickson, and Pinkerton detectives tracked down 16 of the original 400 cast members from around the world — including many of the principal singers from the famous Hillside Spot — Neary was a notable exception.

She opened the 1971 commercial by singing, "I'd Like To Buy The World A Home And Furnish It With Love," and her face graced promotional posters throughout Europe.

Coke desperately wanted to find her.

"Most of the kids in the original commercial, including Linda, weren't professionals. They were just travelling through Europe and the releases they signed were very informal," said Paul Cappelli, the creative director of the new spot. "We knew she was British, but we didn't have her last name spelled right."

Five days before shooting began last fall in Sacrofano, Italy, where the original commercial was made, Coke took one last stab at locating the fresh-faced blonde singer who was hired as a \$50-a-day extra at the age of 19 and was made a focal point of the commercial in the editing process.

A classified advertisement was placed in several European newspapers imploring "the

Linda Higson who was in a Coca-Cola commercial 20 years ago" to call a number in New York. "We'd love to hear you sing again," the ad concluded.

Neary, who never was a professional singer, married in 1978, had four children and got into the catering business. A friend spotted the ad in the International Herald Tribune and alerted the Cheshire, England, resident that Coke was looking for her.

By design this time, Neary, 38, sings the opening to the new commercial, dubbed "Hilltop Reunion," which will blend the "buy The World A Coke" song with the so-called "I'd Like To Buy The World A Home And Furnish It With Love."

"This time, I've been allowed to wear make-up," said Higson during a recent visit to

New York.

The new 60-second spot will make its debut Jan. 28 sometime during the telecast of the Super Bowl, which with its massive viewing audience has become a showcase for new commercials.

Neary's 10-year-old daughter Kelly also appears in the commercial as do Elicia and Matthew Roos, 10 and 12, children of original cast member Stephanie Smith Roos.

Roos, 39, now an art teacher in Indianapolis, was featured alone on camera singing Coke's old slogan, "It's The Real Thing," in the original spot.

"We are parents now — that was the whole emotional thrust of this new commercial," said Roos, who was a freckle-faced student in

Rome when she tried out for the original and won a spot along with her brother, Kermit Smith.

"In this commercial we live out the song's expectations" of peace and harmony," said the mother of four.

As in the original spot, the Hilltop singers in the new commercial, which took four days to shoot, wear clothing native to their homelands. Each singer clutches a frosty bottle of Coke — the world's best selling Cola.

Although the original commercial never won any advertising awards, it spawned pop and country records. "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing," recorded separately by the New Seekers and the Hillside Singers, sold more than 1 million copies combined in 1971.

"The original commercial is the benchmark to which all other Coke advertising is compared," said Bob Bertini, a Coke spokesman at the company's Atlanta headquarters.

Citing competitive reasons, Bertini would not say what the new commercial cost.

"You can be sure we're paying the principals a lot more than \$50 a day and a sack lunch," said Cappelli, the creative director.

For the principals, though, reliving their past glories — and sharing new ones with their children — is the best payment of all.

"The first time around it was just a job. We were doing it to make some money and no one had any idea, really, what we were creating," said Roos. "I would have done it for nothing this time."

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(AT3-S0953-3)

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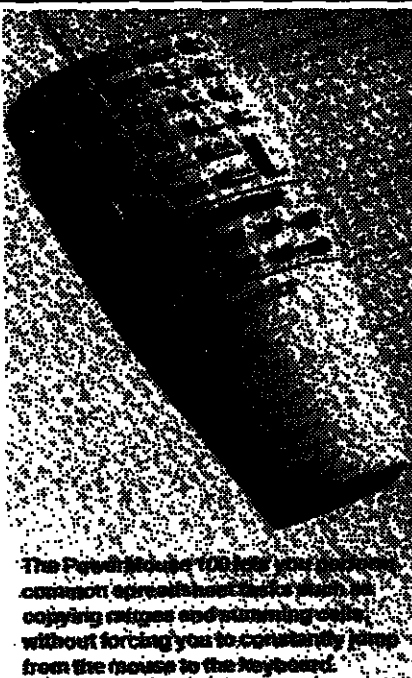
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The PowerMouse 100 is a two-button mouse with 40 programmable keys, keys preprogrammed with widely used spreadsheet functions, and a numeric keypad.

bus 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet packages. Predefined functions include programming statements, TSR hotkeys, and macros (such as copying, erasing, and range formatting). The mouse works with applications that do not have existing mouse support as well as those that support two-button mice, according to the company. It comes with drivers and software to configure it for use with software such as word processors, databases, and desktop publishing programs. Featuring BIOS-compatible Microsoft Mouse emulation, the PowerMouse uses opto-mechanical technology and interfaces with your RS-232 port (the package includes a 9- to 25-pin adapter) at a user-selectable speed of between 1,200 and 38,400 bits per second.

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(AT3-S0992-3)

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(AT3-S0971-3)

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KUWAIT City, Al Watbya in Beh- bahani House, behind the church, Arabic house, 8 rooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens with or without furniture for sale. Rent KD325. Tel. 2413210, 2413236, 11 am-1 pm, 5-8 pm.

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MAID, Sri Lankan, seeks part-time job with an American or European family. Tel. 2636159, 4-7 pm.

(AT3-S0987-3)

QUALIFIED lady accountant, 15 years experience, can work independently upto trial balance with transferable visa, seeks preferably part-time job. Tel. 5317691.

(AT3-S0988-3)

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AN embassy experienced house- maid required. English spoken is a must and professional in European cooking, not living in only qualified should. Tel. 2563148-9, 8 am-2 pm.

(AT4-S0982-3)

MAID required, Indian, for a small family, full-time in Juleeb Al Shiyooh. Must be experienced, preferably English-speaking (Tamil) and have transferable visa. Salary KD50. Tel. Madhukar. 4314930, after 2 pm.

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MAID required for a small Japanese family.

Good experience necessary. Must be willing to move to Canada. Tel. 5312870 for an interview, 9 am-1 pm.

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(AT3-S0967-3)

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Chesnokov survives first-round scare Guy stuns Mecir in opener

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 9, (Reuters): Steve Guy of New Zealand scored the biggest victory of his career when he upset Czechoslovakia's Miloslav Mecir 6-3 6-3 in the first round of the \$150,000 New Zealand Open tennis tournament.

In another first round match, 21-year-old West German Markus Zoccke came close to dispatching top-seeded Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union.

Mecir, who has not played for a month, struggled to regain his form after badly scraping his foot during an Italian holiday. The Czechoslovak has slipped from his world number four ranking last year to 25.

Just before going on court, Guy's older brother told him to forget reputations and set his mind on playing a simple game of sound serving and accurate ground strokes.

Guy, ranked 209, did just that. Serving with speed and depth, he rushed to a 4-0 lead over Mecir, who last year was runner up to world number one Ivan Lendl in the Australian Masters.

When broken to 30 in the fifth



Chesnokov escapes defeat game, Guy steamed and served to 5-2 with beautiful controlled play. After yielding to Mecir's service, he won the set decisively.

losing only one point in the process.

Mecir broke Guy twice in the second set but the New Zealander, who admitted he had played nervously throughout the match, soon broke back and thrust on to victory.

Mecir will not be a happy man as he leaves for Melbourne to play the first of the Grand Slam tournaments, the Australian Open, next week.

"I have not had enough practice," he said. "I think maybe I should have practised more."

Zoccke, who just a few weeks ago was dancing to celebrate the breaching of the Berlin Wall in his native city, came close to celebrating even more wildly in his clash against Chesnokov.

Displaying an awesome power on service and off the ground, he went down 7-6 (7-5) 6-7 (4-7) 5-7 to the world number 18 only after a fierce struggle.

The score was a magnificent achievement by Zoccke, only in his first year on the professional tour. He had spent the weekend playing three matches just to

qualify.

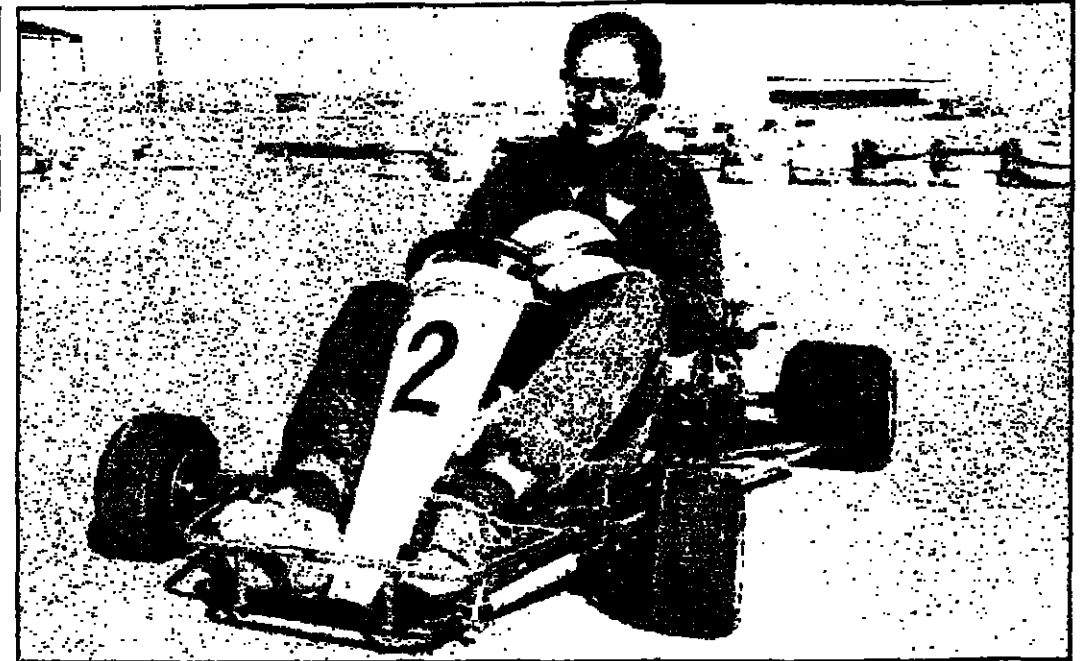
In Sydney, world number one Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and West Germany's Boris Becker were left kicking their heels in frustration as heavy rain washed out play on the second day of the New South Wales Open tennis tournament.

Czechoslovakia's Lendl, who spent this morning playing scrabble, and world number two Becker had been hoping for match practice before the Australian Open in Melbourne starting next Monday.

Only three men's singles matches were completed on the opening day yesterday and the week-long tournament is now nine hours behind schedule.

Organisers have moved the start of play forward 90 minutes tomorrow in a bid to clear the backlog. Rain is also forecast for tomorrow.

The weather is a bitter blow to tournament officials who had assembled the strongest men's field in the tournament's history. Seven of the world's top 20 men's players are present in the 32-strong field.



Haines won the last two meetings

Haines triumphs twice

Bollig and Snell finish 2nd

DAVID HAINES (Halliburton) took first place in the last two meetings at the Ahmadi Kart Track. A sponsored "Turkey Trot" meeting by Pirelli Construction Company was easily snapped up by Haines with the non appearance of main rivals Friesenberger and Snell plus an early retirement by Lloyd.

The Turkey Trot runner-up Bollig tried his best to keep in close touch with Haines but there was never any real challenge as Haines always managed to open a comfortable lead. Third place for the day went to youngster Wakely and fourth place to Gerard Nicholson who with Wakely showed good promise.

The prize, one frozen turkey, was presented to each driver and the officials by Mrs Marianne Nicholson on behalf of Pirelli Construction Company.

In the first championship race of the new year Haines took first place in all five races in a commanding display of driving ability. Mike Snell took second place in the KNDC race with Lloyd third, Friesenberger (sponsored by the Mahdi Habib Commercial Est.) attempted to drive with a fractured wrist only to be plagued further by a number of engine problems which placed him well down in the results order.

With the field somewhat short of drivers due to many being out



Tom Bollig



Mike Snell

of Kuwait, there were few notable incidents. In the fourth race of the day Lloyd and Snell had an exciting tussle for second place as the faster Snell tried repeatedly to pass a slower Lloyd who drove defensively using his experience to hold Snell to third place at the flag. Some way behind the front runners came the trio of Bollig, Wakely and Dick. This separate battle for the lower order placings was a much harder fought affair with the three drivers nose to tail on more than one occasion.

Standings to date:				
	KNDC	ACC	Pts	Novice
Simon Lloyd	67	195	—	—
David Haines	67	160	—	—
P. Friesenberger	57	181	—	—
Mike Snell	48	174	—	—
Peter Wakely	43	126	—	—
Tom Bollig	39	158	—	—
Neil Gardiner	33	96	61	—
Ray Washer	31	75	35	—
Tom Coddough	17	64	32	—
Kieron Dick	13	15	32	—
K. Schwingen	10	27	—	—
Iain Stevenson	5	11	10	—

Lendl signs new 6-year contract worth \$15m

SYDNEY, Jan 9, (Reuters): Ivan Lendl signed a multi-million dollar tennis racket and clothing contract with Japanese company Mizuno today, then announced he would use his old Adidas racket at next week's Australian Open.

"It wouldn't be in anyone's best interests to swap before a big tournament like the Australian Open," the world's number one player said of his decision to stick with his Adidas racket.

"At this stage of my career, it's very difficult to change my game, so it's a case of trying to adjust my racket to me rather than me adjusting to the racket."

"There are no problems with the racket but it takes longer than two or three days to sort things out," he said as rain washed out the second day of the New South Wales Open.

Lendl, however, will be sporting the company's clothes and shoes when the Australian open, the first Grand Slam event of the 1990s, begins in Melbourne on Monday.

Mizuno's president Masato Mizuno said the six-year contract, believed by tennis insiders to be worth around \$15 million, was "reasonable for the world's number one player."

The company already provides equipment for a variety of sports stars ranging from Olympic champions Carl Lewis and Florence Griffith Joyner to Golder Sandy Lyle and the All Blacks rugby team.

"Lendl, 29, has been contracted to West Germany's Adidas for the past decade, during which he has won 83 Grand Prix tournaments."

Former Wimbledon singles champions Pat Cash of Australia and Sweden's Stefan Edberg have agreed to team up in the men's doubles at the Australian Open.

Cash, making a comeback after rupturing an Achilles tendon last April, and Edberg have accepted a wildcard invitation after the Swede announced yesterday he was looking for a partner. Open organisers Tennis Australia said in a statement today.

Cash won the Wimbledon title in 1987, Edberg the following year. They won the Canadian Open together in 1987 but were involved in a controversial verbal exchange at the Australian open last year.

Before the match, which Edberg won despite suffering a serious back injury in the final game, the Swede accused Cash of "tanking" (throwing) a set in the previous round, an allegation the Australian angrily denied.

Edberg, who will be 24 during the tournament, won the men's singles title at the Australian Open in both 1985 and 1987.

Israel's embassy in New Zealand condemned Israeli tennis player Amos Mansdorf today for saying he would have played in Nazi Germany had he lived then.

"For a Jewish person to say something like this about Nazi Germany, it is disgusting," First Secretary Zeev Luria said.

Mansdorf made his comment in Auckland in an angry denunciation of demonstrators who disrupted his first round match at the New Zealand Open yesterday. The protesters targeted Mansdorf because he is on a United Nations blacklist for playing in South Africa.

FACC, Lahore Gym, YMCA win

FLYING ARROWS Cricket Club started off their New Year on an excellent note, registering two straight victories at the E.P.I. grounds, in the league fixtures of the Gulf Cricket League. They scored wins over Prince Cricket Club and Brothers Sporting.

Derick Almeida, back to Kuwait cricket after a short absence, was instrumental in both wins. He scored a magnificent 55 runs against Prince and a superb 55 not out against Brothers. Both knocks gave FACC a much needed boost to their middle order which had depleted for some time.

Rudy (piper) Almeida, the former's brother, scored a splendid 26 in the first match and shared a fruitful partnership with Derick to get FACC their much awaited win. Other batsmen to reach double figures in the match against Prince were John Dias (19), Neville D'Souza (11), Verold Sirur (10) and Benjamin Lobo (12) not out. Ishfaq was the most successful bowler for Prince, taking 3 wickets for 26 while Ishfaq and Aslam took 2 wickets each.

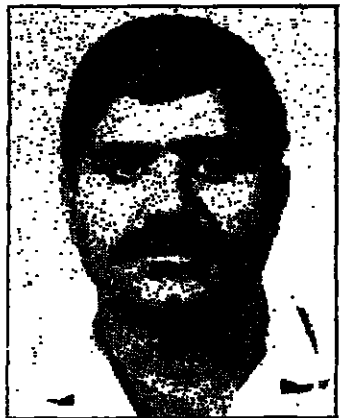
Prince managed to score 142 for wickets in reply to FACC's 164 for 8 wickets when time was called out. Asad Malik top scored for Prince with 42 runs. Ishfaq (35 n.o.), Ishfaq (21) and Naseem (14 n.o.) were the scorers. Benjamin Lobo with 2 wickets for 39, Saleem Bushkiri with 3 for 21 and Neville D'Souza 1 for 33 were the wicket-takers for FACC.

In the second match, Brothers Sporting were restricted to 138 for 8 wickets in 28 overs, due to some splendid bowling by Vijay Samuel (1 for 28), Derick Almeida (4 for 29), Ashok Sitaram (1 for 18) and Manoj Sitaram (1 for 7). Sadek with 42 runs top scored for Brothers with useful contributions coming from Asghar (36), Sohail (14) and Masood (12).

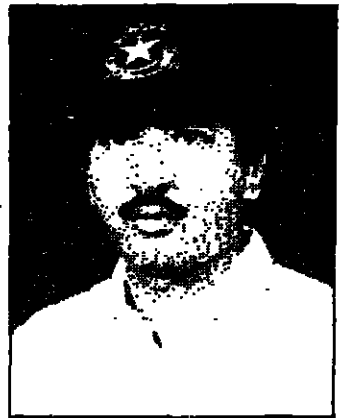
In reply FACC achieved the target in 25 overs for the loss of 5 wickets. Derick (55 not out) was ably supported by Roy Varghese who scored 27 and Ashok Sitaram who scored 33 runs. FACC's fielding was of superior quality and Asad, Alex, Neville and Vijay brought off some great catches in the out field. Kanti was the pick of



Hafiz: played well



Salim: hit 63



Saeed: 96 runs

the Brother's bowlers with 3 for 13. A splendid knock of 96 runs by Saeed and equally disciplined bowling of 40 runs by captain Anjum Bashir enabled Lahore Gymkhana Cricket Club to score a 60-run victory to Lahore Gym. The wickets were shared by Ali, Tahir, Mazhar and Jamil.

YMCA scored two victories in the Good Year Cup, sponsored by Abdul Hadi Al Mailem, over the week. In the first match they beat Deccan Green by six wickets and in the second they crushed West Coasters by 130 runs.

Deccan Green, batting first, scored 161 for three in 23 overs with Abba Singh scoring 43 and Akilshah 23. Imran, Ahmed and Salim got one wicket each.

YMCA started badly losing

Chasing a target of 7.84 runs per

over, Salmiya C.C. had no answer to the accurate bowling of Ali, Tahir and Jamil and they were restricted to 90 runs in 15 overs. Salmiya C.C. could muster only 136 runs for 7 wickets thus giving a 60-run victory to Lahore Gym. The wickets were shared by Ali, Tahir, Mazhar and Jamil.

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De Silva pleads guilty to rough behaviour

SYDNEY, Jan 9, (Reuters): Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva apologised and pleaded guilty to a breach of the player's code of behaviour after an angry bawling match with a Tasmanian bowler, the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) said today.

De Silva, captain in the three-day match, and Tasmanian fast bowler Rod Tucker had to be separated by the umpires and Tasmanian captain Dirk Wellham

after a scuffle on the final day of the tour match which ended in a draw yesterday.

De Silva appeared to run into Tucker after hitting an on drive. After running three, De Silva returned to the bowler's end where the two began pushing and grabbing each other as an angry Tucker jabbed his finger at the diminutive Sri Lankan batsman.

"Wellham made a complaint to the code

of behaviour commissioner who convened a meeting. Aravinda pleaded guilty after apologising on the field and later in there (the meeting)." ACB spokesman Ian McDonald said by telephone.

"The ACB has no jurisdiction over De Silva because he is not Australian so (any punishment) is in their court," McDonald said. Wellham made his complaint after the umpires said they would not report the incident.

Sri Lankan manager Nissal Senarathne said by telephone from Adelaide, where the touring side start a three-day match against the Australian Cricket Academy tomorrow, that he had investigated the incident involving De Silva, Player of the Series in the two Tests against Australia.

"I've been investigating it but no one saw it," Senarathne said.



Marsh: to play in first Test

Australia recall Marsh for Test

MELBOURNE, Jan 9, (Reuters): Australia reunited the top order which helped crush England 4-0 in 1988 Ashes series when it recalled opener Geoff Marsh today for the first cricket Test match against Pakistan starting on Friday.

Marsh, Australia's vice captain, missed the single Test against New Zealand and two Tests against Sri Lanka after breaking his toe in net practice on the eve of the New Zealand game in Perth.

His replacement, Western Australian teammate Tom Moody, appeared to have cemented his spot with 61 against New Zealand and his debut Test century in the first Sri Lanka Test.

But an indifferent performance in the second Test coincided with Marsh, 31, hitting an unbeaten 355 in his comeback match against South Australia and the selectors have opted for Marsh's experience against the highly-rated Pakistanis.

Leg-spinner Peter Sleep is retained for the Melbourne game, the first of a three-Test series.

Pakistan won the last series between the two sides in 1988 1-0 while Australia took their last home series 2-0 against Imran Khan's side in 1983-84.

Squad: Allan Border (captain), Geoff Marsh, David Boon, Mark Taylor, Dean Jones, Steve Waugh, Ian Healy, Peter Sleep, Greg Campbell, Carl Rackemann, Merv Hughes, Terry Alderman.

Unity beat Independent

UNITY Hockey Club beat Kuwait Independent Gold by a solitary goal in a Frankie Memorial Cup tournament at the Ahmad Al Sabah ground on Friday.

On the same day, Flying Arrows held Al Hilal to a goalless draw in an Al Mulla League match while Starworld and Pak XI achieved the same result in another match of the same tournament.

And in the Sharma Trophy, Cosmos overcame Kuwait Independent Black at 2.00 pm, Cosmos also face Starworld at 2.00 pm while the 3.00 pm matches see Flying Arrows meet Kuwait Independent Gold and Unity take on Pak XI.

France will gain from Kuwait tour, says Platini

NANCY, France, Jan 9, (KUNA): The coach of the French national team, Michel Platini today expressed confidence that the experience to be gained from France's tour of Kuwait next week will be valuable for his team.

Platini, the star of French football in the 1980's, leaves next Monday for Kuwait leading the A-team, in friendly matches against Kazma club, the Kuwaiti national team and the West German national team.

Speaking to the Kuwait News Agency, Platini said his idea to go to Kuwait for winter training was translated into reality by the support of the chairman of the Kuwait Football Association Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"I chose to go to Kuwait for simple reason that we cannot find anywhere else like the not-too-hot-not-too-cold weather, the relatively short flight and the facilities available there," he maintained.

"I could have chosen to go to Brazil, but the 50 degree heat is harsh on the players who have just been released from matches in the European and local championships," he said.

Platini, who is leading his team on the first foreign trip after the renewal of his contract with the French Football Federation for four more years, said the conditions of playgrounds, hotels and climate make Kuwait ideal for training.

He said this will be the last winter training camp for the national team because this respite in the months of December and January has been cancelled in future seasons.

But he noted that French local teams can reap the same benefits by holding their training camps in Kuwait in future seasons.

Platini said the football associations in Kuwait and France have room for co-operation to organise a series of matches between teams from the two countries.

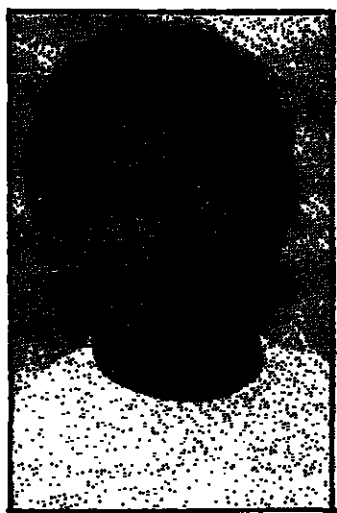
The French coach said he will not spare any effort to see his team qualify for the finals of the European Championship which will be held in Sweden in 1992.



Michel Platini

Pakistan draw match

Mansoor, Miandad and Shoaib shine



Javed Miandad

BRISBANE, Australia, Jan 9, (Reuters): Pakistan's batsmen used the second innings of their drawn four-day cricket match against Queensland today for some valuable practice before the first Test against Australia which starts on Friday.

The touring side, who were bowled out for 257 in their first innings, scored 307 for six in their second in reply to Queensland's 436 for eight declared as the match ended 30 minutes early.

Resuming at eight without loss, Pakistan kept pace with the clock as runs came in even time.

Mansoor Akhtar, batting at number three, hit the top score of 74, former captain Javed Miandad was unbeaten on 55 and opener Shoaib Mohammad made 52.

Captain Imran Khan, whose side lost their opening two games against Australia and Sri Lanka in the World Series Cup one-day tournament which resumes on February 10, and lost a three-day match against Western Australia, was optimistic about the three-Test series.

"It is not the first time we have been in such a position and come back," said Imran of the tour results to date.

"We expected certain performances from certain players on the tour but it hasn't worked out that way."

He said only Wasim, Javed Miandad and Salim Yousuf had played well so far.

Scoreboard
PAKISTAN first innings 257 (Javed Miandad 77 M. Polzin five for 56)

QUEENSLAND first innings 436 for eight declared (G. Foley 155, G. Ritchie 123, S. Storey 54)

PAKISTAN second innings (over-

night eight for no wicket)

Amir Malik c Smith b Carey 26

Imran Khan c Law b Foley 21

Mansoor Akhtar b Cantrell 52

Polzin 52

Shoaib c Polzin b

Cantrell 35

Javed Miandad not out 55

Saeed Anwar c Smith b Carey 26

Salim Yousuf not out 21

Extras (b-2 lb-3 nb-5) 10

Total (for six wickets) 307

Fall of wickets: 1-28 2-115 3-165 4-

194 5-233 6-268

Did not bat: Abdul Qadir, Waqar

Yousuf, Asadullah Javed.

Bowling: Polzin 18-3-60-2, Carey

21-6-65-1, Rackemann 9-2-22-0,

Storey 15-4-67-0 (1nb), Cantrell 14-3-

46-2, Foley 10-0-28-1 (4nb), Law 2-0-

13-0, Healy 1-0-1-0.

Players 'sick of soccer'

A BOUT of mid-season "soccer sickness" has surfaced in Italy and Spain, with Brazilian strikers Careca and Baltazar among the main victims.

Napoli's Careca has been well below his best recently and Atletico Madrid's Baltazar has been rebuffed for his gloomy outlook.

Most of the top players in Italy are playing twice a week this season due to domestic and European commitments and warm-up matches before the World Cup in June and Careca appears to be suffering from his club's increased workload.

Warned

He is likely to stay on the bench for the League leaders' Italian Cup tie against Bologna on Wednesday and Napoli coach Alfredo Bigon has warned his other players they must improve after a series of unconvincing performances.

On Sunday, the team were subjected to a rare outburst of jeering and whistling from their usually loyal fans after struggling to beat lowly Ascoli 1-0 only a week after crashing to their first League

defeat of the season.

"I don't want to punish anyone but if a player isn't able to offer his best then he will have to make room for others," said Bigon, with Careca clearly in mind.

Napoli and Italy international striker Andrea Carnevale said he had suffered a period last year when he felt "sick of soccer" and it seemed as if the Brazilian felt that way now.

"I could hardly find the energy to turn up for training. I think the same is happening with Careca," he said.

"(Fernando) de Napoli is another player who hasn't had a break this season. Taking a rest might do him good, too," Carnevale said. Defender Marco Baroni is likely to be the third man ordered to take a break for his own good.

In Spain, Baltazar joined a row with Atletico Madrid coach Javier Clemente and Portuguese international Paulo Futre over the team's performance against Real Madrid on Sunday.

Baltazar, who was injured during the game but has recovered sufficiently to train, said the 3-1 defeat had effectively ended Atletico's chances of winning the League — a comment that earned him a sharp rebuke from Clemente.

"I understand he is discouraged... but I don't like my players to say this. I am telling them and telling Baltazar that we shall win the League if we win all the games left to play."

Roma midfielder Lionello Manfredonia, who collapsed with heart failure in a match at Bologna 10 days ago, was another man in need of a holiday as he left hospital yesterday.

"At the moment Lionello is thinking of getting better. Then in a few months time he will see whether it's appropriate to take up soccer again," his wife Carolina said.

Contract
Giovanni Trapattoni, who guided Internazionale Milan to a record-breaking League title last season, has said he is renewing his management contract with the club until 1992.

And at Real Madrid, Alfredo di Stefano — one of the club's all-time greats — has been appointed adviser to president Ramon Mendoza with public relations duties. He will represent Real on official occasions.

Scotland captain Roy Aitken had decided on a move from Glasgow Celtic to English Second Division Newcastle after turning down a new four-year contract and a £100,000 (\$160,000) cash incentive to stay.

"I'm leaving Celtic for personal reasons which are no fault of anyone at the club," he said after the £500,000 (\$800,000) transfer had been finalised.

"I want to move for the benefit of my wife and children."

Graf aims to guard against complacency

MELBOURNE, Australia, Jan 9, (AP): Steffi Graf is the number one woman in tennis, losing only 13 matches since 1986. But she says it's getting harder to stay in top form, and wants to guard against complacency.

The West German whiz currently is practicing in Melbourne for the Australian Open championships, which begin Monday at the National Tennis Centre.

Graf, only 20 years old herself, said she believed her younger rivals were getting a lot "tougher."

"All of them are working more and improving," she said.

"It has never been easy but there were some easy matches in the beginning of tournaments."

"The younger ones are coming up and they want to get in there and show they can play," she said.

Graf will be defending her Australian Open title against opponents like Gabriela Sabatini, Martina Navratilova, Arantxa Sanchez and Monica Seles are among those who have opted to bypass the first Grand Slam event of the year.

"On hardcourts Gabriela Sabatini, Helena Sukova and Jana Novotna are going to be tough to play," Graf said.

During a wide-ranging press conference, her only one before the open, Graf said her most rewarding experience was "becoming world number one. That was a special day for me. I didn't know about it until my father told me."

The collapse of the Berlin Wall and events in East Germany and the Eastern bloc countries "I've never been there (to East Berlin) but the best tennis players have never had a chance to play outside."

NBA Games

NEW YORK, Jan 9, (Reuters): Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played yesterday.

Orlando 111 San Antonio 102
Philadelphia 110 Indiana 116
Dallas 110 Seattle 96
Milwaukee 126 Charlotte 113
Golden State 122
Portland 108 Sacramento 96

Eclipse award

NEW YORK, Jan 9, (Reuters): Sunday Silence, winner of three-of-four dramatic duels with Easy Goer in major horse races last year, was yesterday named winner of the Eclipse award as the nation's outstanding three-year-old thoroughbred.

Tigers president

DETROIT, Jan 9, (Reuters): Bo Schembechler, who resigned after 21 years of coaching the University of Michigan football team, was named president and chief operating officer of baseball's Detroit Tigers yesterday.

Nagurski dies

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, Minnesota, Jan 9, (UPI): Bronko Nagurski, the prototypical bone-crushing fullback who struck fear in the hearts of opposing players in the early days of football, died of natural causes Sunday night. He was 81.

RESULTS of the 15th week of the Dushill Bridge Tournament, held at the Messiah Beach Hotel on Monday, January 8, 1990, are as follows:

N/S
1. Ravi & Mukherjee
2. Rita & Bianca
Walkewicz & Wardeck
3. Moussalli & Baz
E/W
1. Medhat & Sabek
2. Mrs Sapre & Shah
3. Drexler & Carsten

Lanka Lions in semifinals, BKME win easily

LANKA LIONS Cricket Club-Jamal Al Ghanim Est made an impressive start to their 1990 season by reaching the semifinals of the President's Trophy with an emphatic win over Social C.C. at the EPI Grounds on Friday.

Lanka Lions' skipper Perusinghe who won the toss and put the opposition in hoping for an early breakthrough but openers Shantha and Saleem put on 57 for the first wicket in 10 overs before the former departed for a well made 22. Saleem continued the good work putting on 23 with Dinshah who rallied briefly to score 15.

Skipper Arun Nair joined Saleem in a productive stand of 84 before Saleem was caught by Namal at deep square leg for an attacking 61 which contained 6 fours. Arun accelerated towards the end of the innings to score 46 which helped Social reach a respectable 181 in 28 overs.

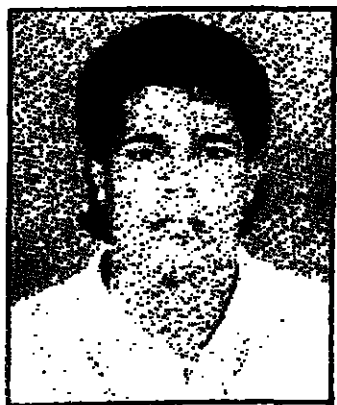
The bowling honours were shared by Dissanayake and Meraj with 2 wickets each and Sujith one. Dhammika and Upul too bowled tidy spells despite going wicketless.

The Lankans launched their reply spiritedly getting 24 off 3 overs before Sam was unfortunately run

out. In the third over opener Namal Fernando amply proved that he was not to be intimidated by short-pitched bowling by promptly dispatching 3 consecutive bouncers from Billa to the square leg fence with consummate ease. This was a fair indication of events to follow as Namal alongwith Meraj Hettige provided the best batting of the day to post an enterprising 107-run stand in 14 overs.

Namal was severe on anything over-pitched as well, combining his hooks and pulls with some scorching drives off the front foot to make 63 with 6 fours. Meraj batting with his usual composure, cut and drove handsomely and with the minimum of effort to compile 61 glittering runs with the help of a sweetly timed six over long on and 4 fours. These two would have got many more boundaries but for some enthusiastic fielding by Social C.C. with Saleem and Oceroi excelling.

Donald too chipped in with a useful 15 in the latter stages and although Rohitha did not live upto his reputation as an attacking batsman in his first outing, the Lankans managed 174 for 5 in 25 overs as compared to 160 runs by their opponents in the same number of



Meraj: 61 runs

overs. For Social C.C. Billa took 2 wickets while Saleem and Dexter took one each.

Lanka Lions have now reached the semifinal stage of both President's Trophy and Bhutto Memorial Trophy while doing one better in the Patron's Trophy to reach the final to be played with Evergreen.

■ Lanka Lions did not have luck on their side a day earlier when they lost to Bank of Kuwait and the Mid-



Namal: 63 runs

die East (BKME) by 105 runs in an Arsons Thursday League match at the KOC New Ground in Ahmadi.

Lanka Lions won the toss and put BKME in to bat. They must have regretted their decision as BKME batsmen hammered their bowling attack. Ashfaq and Ramesh started the proceedings by putting on 32 runs before Ramesh was out, bowled by Sujith for 9. Ayub and Ashfaq then put on 56 for the second wicket before Donald's fine

anticipation ended his innings of 28. Ashfaq continued to torment the Lions and Bastaki combined well to further boost BKME's total to 165 when a tired Ashfaq ran himself out for a brilliant 83 which included 10 hits to the fence. Bastaki remained unbeaten on 33. When time was called, BKME had amassed 168 for 3 in 22 overs.

Lanka Lions started their chase disastrously with Sam returning back to the pavilion in the first over, caught by Ramesh off Ronny Jr. Mahinda followed soon running himself out for no score. Ranil and Donald joined them. Ranil caught by Ashfaq off Ronny Jr for 0 and Donald out to a brilliant one-handed catch by Ayoub off Tariq for 3.

Lions kept losing wickets at regular intervals with Salim accounting for Nalin (4) and Namal (1). In between, Sethi had Madugala caught by Bastaki and bowled Sujith for 6. Ayoub then mopped up the tail, having Perusinghe caught behind for 26 and bowling Miraq for 4 to end Lions' innings at 63.

For BKME, Ronny Jr had analysis of 2 for 8 in 4 overs, Tariq 1 for 5 off 3 overs, Salim 2 for 9 in 4 overs, Sethi 2 for 22 off 4 overs and Ayoub 1 for 6 off one over.

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